

# The Baptist Record

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Valera Cranford (R) helps Jone Harbaugh take inventory at the Baptist Bookstore extension in Syracuse, N.Y. Cranford is a Mission Service Corps volunteer from Columbus, Miss., and has worked in the bookstore for 10 months. Mission Service Corps is a Southern Baptist program in which people raise their own financial support to serve in mission situations.

## Mississippi volunteer follows grandma's style

By Clay Renick

SYRACUSE, N.Y.—Every morning Valera Cranford walks down the steps of First Baptist Church of Syracuse and unlocks the basement doors—to The Baptist Book Store.

Along Jefferson Street, through windows covered in iron mesh, you can watch her stock shelves and talk to street people, walk-ins, and elderly, few of whom realize that she works without salary and left her home and family in Mississippi to be there.

"Valera Cranford makes the difference in whether or not we have that book store open," said Quinn Pugh, executive director of the New York State Baptist Convention. Low business volume makes it impossible to hire a full-time manager, Pugh said. "And without that store, we wouldn't have ready access to church supplies. We'd have to get them from Nashville."

Cranford, 68, and widowed, is a retired dental hygienist who wanted to work with Indians after she joined the Mission Service Corps in April 1984. MSC is a Southern Baptist volunteer program. Cranford had no experience with bookstores, but after hearing of the need for workers in Syracuse, decided to come.

"My friends back in Columbus, Miss., thought I was crazy," recalled Cranford. "I could be back there with my family right now. But you know, I remember my grandmother who was a housewife all her life and never worked."

"She had a garden. And everytime we went by she would load us up with vegetables. Even after she got too old to work in that garden, she'd give us something when we dropped in—like a jar of homemade jelly."

"I knew she couldn't afford to give it, but she needed to, to be happy. She lived for our kids. That's all she had. That's how you find happiness in life—by giving of yourself."

"And when you give to the Lord's work it's never enough," she said. "Because we owe so much."

Clay Renick is a volunteer with the Mission Service Corps Communication Team.

## Easter offering

# Question, "Who Cares?" confronts all churches

By Carol Garrett

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—This year an unexpected week of prayer theme compels Southern Baptists to reevaluate the seriousness of their concern for home missions.

"Who Cares?" is the simple, direct question that will confront churches, across America as they consider the crying needs of this country's lost.

Caring, really caring, requires action. If we mean to follow our Lord's command to feed his sheep, we must meet their needs with more than sympathetic lip service.

"Suppose a brother or sister who is in rags with not enough food for the day, and one of you says, 'Good luck to you, keep yourself warm, and have plenty to eat,' but does nothing to supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"

"So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing" James 2:15-17 (the New English Bible).

There is no shortage of needs calling for Southern Baptists' action.

About 38 percent of the United States population in 1980 was not affiliated with any religious group, compared to 34 percent in 1970. With a U.S. population of more than 230 million people, approximately 94 million are without a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. What will we do to help change these statistics?

At least one in every 16 high school seniors is actively smoking marijuana on a regular basis, and one in every 16 drinks alcohol daily. What are Southern Baptists doing to reach these teenagers?

By the year 2000, researchers predict that one half of the American population will live in some type of multifamily housing. What plans are we making to meet the unique needs of these people?

Sixty-three of the 87 different languages spoken by home missionaries have no printed materials available. When will we provide the resources our missionaries need to work with such specific groups?

The U.S. population grows more pluralistic and diverse every day. There are in this country 56 million Roman Catholics and Orthodox, 6 million members of Christian sectarian groups, 6 million Jews, 5 million non-Christian world

religionists. These are only a few of the various groups with beliefs differing from Southern Baptists. How are we learning to relate to these people, and be aware of their needs?

Southern Baptists have an opportunity to do something about these needs, and many more. They can give the \$30 million to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. They can spend at least one week praying for home missions this March.

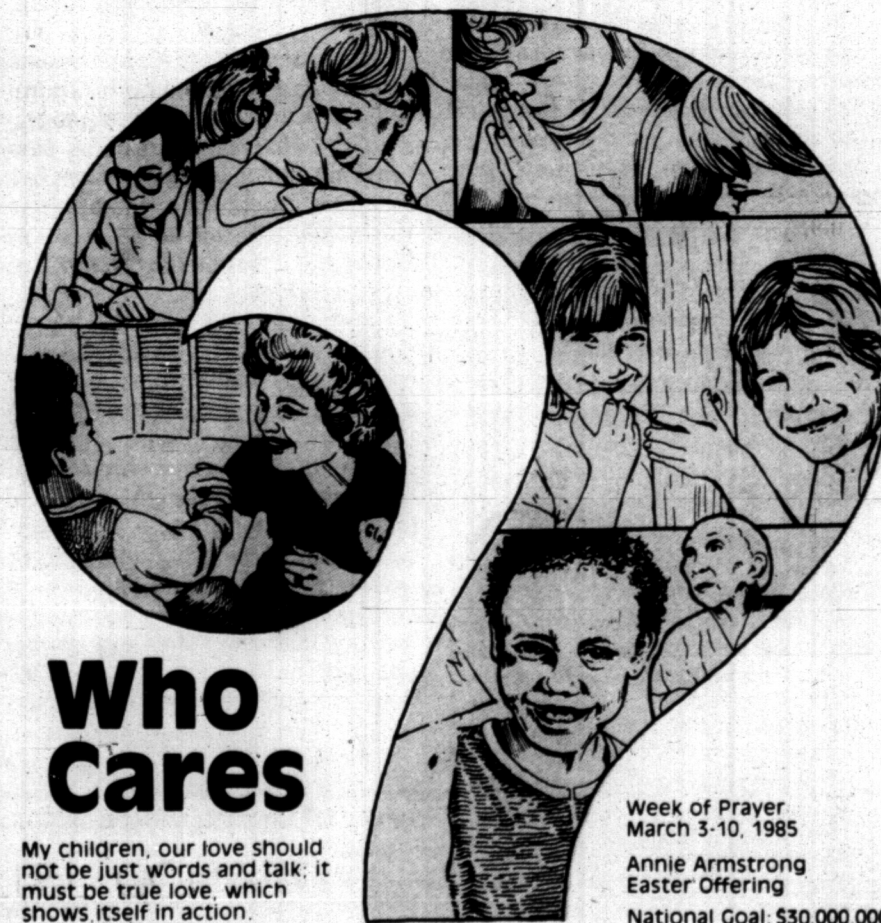
Talk is cheap, and even sincere empathy costs us nothing. No sacrifice

is experienced in "feeling sorry" for someone. Cost is involved when we give our time. Doing is much more expensive than feeling.

This year Southern Baptists are confronted with a week of prayer theme that cannot be ignored. "Who Cares?" is a question that demands action. Because God's answer is "I care," ours can be no different. Southern Baptists must care enough to give of their time, their prayers, their money, and their hearts for home missions.

Carol Garrett writes for WMU, SBC.

WEEK • OF • PRAYER • FOR • HOME • MISSIONS



My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action. (1 John 3:18 TEV)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Prayer and money for home missions

Many Southern Baptists have felt that it would be a thrilling and interesting experience to be able to visit a mission field.

All they really need to do is to look around.

To be found all around us are some of the most needy and desperate mission fields that are to be found anywhere in the world. Maybe it's not as exciting a mission field to visit as others. They only reason that it wouldn't be, however, is that one wouldn't have to fly across an ocean or cross an international boundary in his car.

The needs are every bit as great in the United States as they are in Hong Kong or Manila or Buenos Aires or Montevideo or Mexico City or Rio de Janeiro. In fact, missionaries working in those cities might have more personal safety than those at work in the South Bronx of New York City or in Oakland, Calif., or in the inner city of Los Angeles or in some areas of Chicago. Yet we have workers in those places of the United States who are finding the lost and leading them to Christ.

This is home missions, and heroes of the faith are carrying the gospel to every corner of our nation. In addition to the big cities they are going to the more sparsely populated western areas of the country, where the next Southern Baptist may be 100 miles away. The only difference between what they are doing and foreign missions endeavors is that generally the home missionaries' neighbors speak English. But then, on the other hand, the foreign missionaries speak the languages of their places of services.

And getting back to family and loved ones from a foreign field might be no more of a problem than for many home missionaries.

All of this is to say that our home missions efforts need to be supported by prayer just as much as do the efforts of the foreign missionaries. They need prayer throughout the year, but the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 3 to 10. This is the time set aside each year for specific and concentrated prayer for the ministry of the Home Mission Board.

Prayer is the main ingredient of this annual observance, but money is an important part of the picture also. This is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The goal for the Annie Armstrong offering for this year is \$30 million, and that amounts to about half of the annual budget for the Home Mission Board. For the past two years, however, the goals have not been met. That means that ministries that should have been carried out were

shelved. The goals are established, and the Home Mission Board prepares a definite budget for what it feels needs to be done with the money. When it doesn't come in, opportunities for witnessing to the lost all across the United States and its territories are curtailed.

There is no need to seek to fool ourselves. We've got to have money to carry out our witnessing programs. We have made a decision to weaken our witness for Christ when we decide to cut down on the amount of money given.

The biggest share of the Annie Armstrong Offering will go for the support of missionaries and field ministries to the board. This budgeted figure is \$20,500,000. The largest single part of this amount will go for language missions including witnessing to Indians, Spanish-speaking, French, Slavic, Portuguese, Italians, Japanese, Chinese, and other Asians. That amounts to a world-wide missions field come to our doorstep.

## WHO CARES? You Can!



Support the Week of Prayer for Home  
Missions 1985

March 3-10

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Goal: \$30,000,000

The budget amount for special projects is \$3,500,000. Advance in what is termed critical areas has a \$6 million budget figure. Of this, \$2 million is earmarked for increasing missionary personnel in order to seek to meet the critical needs that are to be found in our nation and its territories.

The prayers are necessary, and the

money is necessary. The Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 3 to 10 is the time to concentrate our prayers in support of home missions, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the way of putting action to our prayers.

Can we do any less in either instance?

## Guest opinion

# Paul had the answer

By Allen O. Webb

At a time of great confusion in the Corinthian church that stemmed from allegiance to various preachers, Paul said, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." That approach might not have solved all their problems, but it turned the church in the right direction.

In the midst of the period of tremendous friction in the world's greatest evangelical denomination, it is definite in my mind that we need to turn to "Jesus Christ and him crucified." Some have said that the Cooperative Program holds us together. That is not true. If we stand at the foot of the cross and look into the face of Jesus, and listen to His Words, we would find a way to get the message to the world if there were no Cooperative Program. The only force that can hold us together is Christ Jesus.

There are fallacies on both sides. It is disgusting to hear the statement "going for the jugular" and "getting enough people on our seminary boards to straighten them out." It is likewise repulsive to hear statements declaring a war on those with whom we disagree. It is interesting to note that a good number of those who criticize our seminaries most are those who have a primary interest in promoting Bible schools and seminaries that are not Southern Baptist institutions. This causes me to question their motives. It is also interesting to notice criticisms of Charles Stanley, our president. So far,

none of the criticism, that I am aware of, would cause me to vote against him. If I do not vote for him in Dallas, it would be because I like someone else more. Again, we need to examine the motives behind our positions. Frankly, I feel that we need to pray for our president that he will exemplify the spirit of Christ in his tremendous position of influence.

I was asked what my position was on the inerrancy issue. My answer was, "I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, or I would not preach it." Any more than that is not necessary and any less is inadequate. It seems that at least 95 percent or more Southern Baptists believe the Bible to be inspired of God.

When persons on either side of this issue are asked, "How were you saved?" both would give the same answer. It is by a confession of our sins and faith in a risen, crucified Lord. Both would say, "Christians should live by the principles and teachings of Christ Jesus." Both would likewise say, "Our greatest priority should be to win souls to Christ." If that is true, then let us "get on with our primary purpose and business."

Southern Baptists should not be divided into two political parties that engage in gutter brawls. If we cannot solve our own problems, how can we help to cure the ills of a sin-cursed world. We all say, "Praise the Lord," and "I love Jesus more than anyone else." If so, it is time for us to prove that love by acting like Christians. It is my firm conviction that it is not

our theology that needs fixing but primarily our attitudes, motives, and our devotion to Christ. When these are corrected, we can work together for Christ.

It is my firm conviction that God led in the planning of "Bold Mission Thrust." It is from God that we strive to see that all men hear the message of Jesus in this century. Anyone who impedes its progress or diverts these efforts through pettiness, jealousy, selfishness, or hard headedness will stand guilty before God in eternity. Wouldn't it be great if we would pool the energies and efforts used to fight

one another into a great combined force to get Christ's message into all the world. It could bring one of the greatest revivals that the world has seen.

I believe that the majority of Southern Baptists join me in saying, "Let's quit fighting one another" and "let us lift up Jesus Christ and Him Crucified." This may not solve all our problems, but it will turn us in the right direction.

Allen O. Webb, who retired as director of missions in Jackson Association, is serving an interim pastorate in North Dakota.

## Guest opinion

# A suitable candidate?

By Linda Mattox

The following statements partially describe a man who would like to be included in every phase of worship in your local church. As you read the facts, ask yourself if you would vote to accept him as a member.

He has never held membership in any church, and he isn't accepted by the people of his home town.

He doesn't own a fine home, and he hasn't accumulated any material possessions. So, he probably wouldn't be able to contribute much money.

He doesn't have a college degree, but several years ago he had many admirers especially among the common people. However, many religious

leaders of his home area believe he is a radical and a trouble-maker.

Once he went into the Lord's house and disrupted a set practice of the church. This made a lot of people angry.

On occasions he has worked on the day set aside to worship the Lord. Many have criticized him for this, but it hasn't stopped him.

He's been known to associate with sinners and people of other races. He's even been seen eating a meal with a thief.

Could you let such an open-minded individual become a member of your church? (Continued on page 6)

## The Baptist Record

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# Southern Baptist Convention

## Dallas Convention Center

June 11-13, 1985

Theme: "Pray ye therefore . . ." (Matthew 9:38)

### Tuesday morning, June 11

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, First Church Choir, Atlanta, John Glover, director
- 9:00 Call to Order  
Congregational Singing, Sam Prestidge, music secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas
- 9:05 Prayer, Dan Pleitz, attorney, Waco, Texas
- 9:10 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention
- 9:15 Committee on Order of Business
- 9:20 Welcome
- 9:25 Response, Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor, New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
- 9:30 Prayer Time
- 9:40 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1)
- 10:40 Presentation of Gavels
- 10:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:15 Congregational Singing, Sam Prestidge
- 11:20 Music, First Church Choir, Atlanta, John Glover, director
- 11:25 President's Address, Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Church, Atlanta; president, Southern Baptist Convention
- 12:00 Benediction, Wes Cantrel, corporate executive, Atlanta  
Singing As We Go, "Blessed Be the Name"

### Tuesday afternoon, June 11

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers
- 2:00 Music for Inspiration, 1985 Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir, directed by Loyd Hawthorne, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; and orchestra, directed by Jim Hansford, Wayland University, Plainview, Texas
- 2:30 Congregational Singing, John Glover
- 2:35 Prayer, Charles Nelson, pastor, Cuba Church, Mayfield, Ky.
- 2:40 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:50 Messenger Information Survey
- 3:00 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 3:10 Prayer Time
- 3:20 Congregational Singing, John Glover
- 3:25 Executive Committee Report (Part 2)
- 4:10 Annuity Board Report
- 4:25 Business  
Election of Officers (Second)  
Committee on Boards  
Miscellaneous Business
- 5:00 Benediction, Darrell Royal, management consultant, Dallas  
Singing As We Go, "Glory to His Name"

### Tuesday evening, June 11

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Southwestern Seminary Chorus and Wind Ensemble, directed by Robert Burton and A. Joseph King, Fort Worth, Texas.
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, William J. Reynolds, professor, Southwestern Seminary
- 7:05 Prayer, James Deloach, associate pastor, Second Church, Houston
- 7:10 Theme Interpretation, Thomas D. Elliff, pastor, Applewood Church, Wheatridge, Colo.
- 7:25 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:45 Sunday School Board Report
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, William J. Reynolds
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report
- 9:00 Benediction, Perry Goolsby, educator, Wichita Falls, Texas  
Singing As We Go, "He Is Lord"

### Wednesday morning, June 12

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, First Church Choir, Roanoke, Va.; Doyle Spence, director
- 9:00 Congregational Singing, Robert Blocker, dean, School of Music, Baylor University, Waco, Texas
- 9:05 Prayer, Anne P. Rosser, co-pastor, Bainbridge-South Hampton Church, Richmond, Va.
- 9:10 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:25 Southern Seminary Report
- 9:35 Stewardship Commission Report
- 9:45 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report
- 9:55 Christian Life Commission Report
- 10:05 New Orleans Seminary Report
- 10:15 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report
- 10:25 Golden Gate Seminary Report

(Continued on page 4)

# The Baptist Record

## SBC Executive Committee

## Group votes to oppose Vatican envoy, tax penalty

by Stan Haste

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In separate actions the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee endorsed a legal brief opposing President Reagan's appointment last year of an ambassador to the Vatican and voiced opposition to a feature in Reagan's tax reform package which would reduce tax deductions for charitable contributions.

In objecting to Reagan's proposal to eliminate income tax deductions for contributions to charity below two percent of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income, the Executive Committee declared its rejection of what it called "the characterization of tax deductibility of gifts to churches as the equivalent of government subsidy."

*Stories concerning other SBC Executive Committee actions are on page 5, 7, and 8.*

Acknowledging what it described as "the fiscal urgency which the national deficit creates for the United States Congress," the committee nevertheless asked lawmakers to follow "the wisdom of the years" in considering changes in tax policy "which will hinder churches from doing their work."

The Executive Committee approved without discussion endorsement of a friend-of-the-court brief at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania filed by the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

That brief, filed in support of a lawsuit brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and several major religious denominations, challenged Reagan's appointment of William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Vatican. The move followed congressional action sought by the White House removing an 1867 ban on diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Debate over U.S.-Vatican diplomatic ties dates to 1939 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to send Myron Taylor as his personal representative to the Holy See with the rank of ambassador. In 1951 President Harry S. Truman sought to upgrade the relationship by naming Gen. Mark Clark ambassador but, after an enormous public outcry by fellow Baptists and others, the retired general withdrew his name and Truman let the matter rest.

Although Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson had no official diplomatic ties with the Vatican, President Richard M. Nixon resumed the practice of sending a personal

representative, a device subsequently used by Presidents Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Reagan.

The Baptist Joint Committee brief, written and filed by its late general (Continued on page 6)

## WMU Convention presents brothers in missions

The state WMU Convention will feature two brothers from Mississippi who are involved in different aspects of mission work.

Kenneth Michel, Mission Service Corps worker with students at the University of Connecticut, and his brother, David, consultant in the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will present information concerning their work.

Ken leads Bible studies, retreats, and visitation with students at the University of Connecticut. David is giving direction to the Planned Growth in Giving program for the state. Ken and David are the sons of

Mr. and Mrs. Red Michel, who served several pastorates in Mississippi. He is now pastor of Belmont Heights Church in Nashville.

The convention is scheduled for March 18-19 at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo. Sessions will convene at 2 p.m. Monday afternoon; 7 p.m. Monday night; 9:30 Tuesday morning and 1:30 Tuesday afternoon. A special event will be the annual Baptist Young Women banquet at 5:30 on Monday afternoon. Information concerning the banquet may be requested from the WMU Office.

Presiding over the convention will be Mrs. James Fancher, of Coffeeville, president. Marjean Patterson serves as executive director.

## Bill, Deborah Patterson to serve FMB in Korea

RICHMOND, Va.—Bill and Deborah Patterson were among 41 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 12 here.

The Pattersons will work in Korea, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of Superior Avenue Baptist Church, Bogalusa, La.

Patterson was born and reared in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil E. Patterson of that city. He considers Bellevue Baptist Church there his home church.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has worked with the state highway department in Hattiesburg. He also has served as youth minister at St. Luke United Methodist Church, Louisville; and pastor of Cash Creek Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky., and Buffalo (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Mrs. Patterson was born in Auburn, Ala. She is the former Deborah Davis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Davis Jr. of Pascagoula, Miss. She grew up in Pascagoula and considers that city her hometown.

She is a graduate of Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College-Jackson

County Campus, Gautier, and of the University of Southern Mississippi. She has worked as a secretary in Pascagoula; an office clerk in Hattiesburg; a receptionist and office clerk in Louisville; and a teacher in Shepherdsville and Elizabethtown, Ky. More recently she was a receptionist-insurance clerk for a physician in Bogalusa.

The Pattersons have two children: Timothy David, born in 1976; and Benjamin David, 1978. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in April for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.



Bill and Deborah Patterson



# Southern Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 1)

- 10:35 Southern Baptist Foundation Report
- 10:45 Prayer Time
- 10:55 Report of the Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group
- 11:55 Business
  - Election of Officers (Fifth)
  - Committee on Committees
  - Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
  - Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Congregational Singing
- 12:00 Music, First Church Choir, Roanoke, Va., Doyle Spence, director  
Scripture and Prayer, Grady B. Wilson, evangelist, Charlotte, N.C.  
Convention Sermon, Charles G. Fuller, pastor, First Church, Roanoke, Va.
- 12:30 Benediction, Dalia (Mrs. Michael) Gonzales, missionary to Spain, Fort Worth,  
Singing As We Go, "To God Be the Glory"

## NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### Wednesday evening, June 12

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Singing Men of Texas; Buryl Red, director
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, William J. Reynolds
- 7:05 Prayer, Clayton Spriggs, associate pastor, Riverside Church, Ft. Myers, Fla.
- 7:10 Business
- 7:40 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:45 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 7:50 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:55 Bold Mission Thrust, Harold C. Bennett
- 8:05 Planned Growth In Giving, Cecil A. Ray, national director of Planned Growth In Giving, Raleigh, N.C.
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, William J. Reynolds
- 8:20 Home Mission Board Report
- 9:00 Benediction, H. Fred Williams, president, Gulf Shore Bible College, Ft. Myers, Fla.  
Singing As We Go, "Spirit of the Living God"

### Thursday morning, June 13

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Baylor University Choir and Orchestra
- 9:00 Congregational Singing, Fes Robertson, 1983-84 president, Southern Baptist Church Music Conference; section supervisor, church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- 9:05 Prayer, Mark Wolfe, student, Southwestern Seminary
- 9:10 Southeastern Seminary Report
- 9:20 Education Commission Report
- 9:30 Midwestern Seminary Report
- 9:40 Radio and Television Commission Report
- 9:50 American Baptist Seminary Commission Report
- 10:00 Baptist World Alliance Report
- 10:10 Prayer Time
- 10:20 Brotherhood Commission Report
- 10:30 Business
  - Resolutions Committee (Final Report)
- 12:30 Benediction, Leon Harris, advertising executive, Lubbock, Texas  
Singing As We Go, "His Name Is Wonderful"

### Thursday afternoon, June 13

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration, mini-concert, John McKay, music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2:25 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 2:30 Prayer, Mark Fuller, paving contractor, Amarillo, Texas
- 2:35 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:40 American Bible Society Report
- 2:50 Woman's Missionary Union Report
- 3:00 Historical Commission Report
- 3:10 Prayer Time
- 3:20 Committee on Denominational Calendar Report
- 3:30 Denominational Press Report
- 3:40 Business
- 4:30 Benediction, Don Cass, pastor, Southcrest Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas  
Singing As We Go, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#### Convention Officers

Charles F. Stanley, president; pastor, First Church, Atlanta  
 Zig Ziglar, first vice-president; layman, Dallas  
 Don Wideman, second vice-president; pastor, First Church, North Kansas City, Mo.  
 Martin B. Bradley, recording secretary; manager, research services department, Baptist Sunday School Board  
 Lee Porter, registration secretary; design editor; Sunday School department, Baptist Sunday School Board  
 Harold C. Bennett, treasurer; executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee  
 Wilmer C. Fields, press representative; assistant to the executive secretary and director of public relations, SBC Executive Committee

William J. Reynolds, music director; associate professor of music, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth

#### Committee on Order Of Business

Larry C. Crawford, physician, Burlington, N.C.  
 Morris H. Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, chairman

J. Nixon Daniel III, attorney, Pensacola, Fla.

Stan Coffey, pastor, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas

Jay Strack, pastor, Riverside Baptist Church, Ft. Myers, Fla.

Fred H. Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

## Board's Executive Committee elects six, funds repairs

By Don McGregor

Six persons were elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee this week to serve on boards of the convention until the convention meets in November.

The new board members were all elected to fill unexpired terms that had been vacated by moving, resignation, job change, or death. The convention will elect permanent replacements to fill the unexpired terms.

The Executive Committee also allowed funds for the replacement of items stolen in January from the Baptist Student Union Center at Mississippi State University, Starkville, acted to bring Mississippi in line on new Annuity Board programs, and approved several items of business concerning the Baptist Building equipment and furnishings and also for Gulfshore Assembly.

Mrs. Judy Blackledge of Laurel was elected to replace Mrs. R. L. Kemp on the board of trustees of Blue Mountain College. Mrs. Kemp has resigned.

Bobby Walton of Benoit was named to the Convention Board to replace Wayne Gullett for Bolivar Association. Gullett has become director of missions for Calhoun Association.

W. F. Evans of Meridian was elected to replace Kermit McGregor on the board of the Children's Village. McGregor, former pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has become public relations director for the Village.

Ray Ming, Vicksburg pastor who died early in February, was replaced by Gerald Hasselman of Vicksburg on the Convention Board.

H. A. Cain of Rolling Fork was named to the Convention Board to replace J. T. McNeely, who moved out of the association.

Several items of furnishing and decoration were taken from the BSU Center at Mississippi State University during a robbery on the evening of Jan. 7 or the early morning of Jan. 8. Some of the items had been gifts relating to the recent dedication service following remodeling and expansion. The replacement cost was figured to be \$2,228.65. The items were not insured because of the advice of insurance carriers that to insure them would be more expensive than replacing them.

Relative to Annuity Board programs, the Executive Committee adopted statements agreeing to the

board's new policies concerning payment at termination. If the amount credited to a member by a church or employer is less than \$3,500 the board may decide to make its payment in a lump sum. If the amount is \$3,500 or more, a lump-sum payment may be made only at the discretion of the board and with the written consent of the member.

In other actions the committee:

- Voted to trade in a 17-year-old word tank recorder and auxiliary equipment on a dictaphone Word Recorder, TDM Telephone Interface Phone Call-in, dictate station, display transcribe terminal, and Dictaphone transcriber at a net cost of \$4,286.36.

- Appropriated up to \$15,000 from fund balance for repainting the exterior of the Baptist Building.

- Transferred \$28,000 left in Baptist Building capital needs funds at the end of 1984 to the 1985 budget to continue "a systematic renovation and decoration program in the building."

## Equal time for fuhrer demanded by Nazis

DETROIT, Mich. (EP)—Detroit officials allowed the display of a Nativity scene on the lawn of its city-county government complex during the Christmas season, in keeping with the Supreme Court's decision involving a creche in Rhode Island.

Now a local Nazi organization has requested permission to display Hitler's picture at the city-county building on the fuhrer's birthday, April 20. Nazi leader Mark Heydrich said his group deserved the same access as the group sponsoring the Nativity scene.

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BR2



# Baptist press articles are ruled "balanced" following accusations

By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—After almost three hours of testimony and discussion, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee concluded two Baptist Press news stories last September "when taken together" gave a balanced presentation of the news.

The final vote was taken with almost no discussion, although the stories had stirred heated debate in two preliminary meetings.

The stories were released Sept. 17 and 18, 1984. The first article reported that a seminary student, J. Stafford Durham, had filed a "formal complaint" with the Federal Communications Commission alleging Houston judge Paul Pressler had secretly tape recorded a telephone conversation "in violation of his civil rights." The second story gave Pressler's response to the charges.

The Executive Committee said it was "untimely" and "unfortunate" the first story appeared separately without an appropriate rebuttal from Pressler.

The committee also expressed support for the Baptist Press staff for "their strong recommitment to timely, accurate, and well-balanced news reporting;" reaffirmed "its longstanding policy of openness in its deliberations and actions," and "its support for a responsible and free press as an essential element for an informed Southern Baptist constituency."

## Formulating policy

The committee also was told a "Baptist Press operating policy" is being formulated by the Executive Committee staff.

While the recommendations were adopted by the 69-member committee virtually without comment, two preliminary meetings featured heated debate. Both meetings took place under "background rules" which prevent direct quotations from individuals during debate.

The chairman of the public relations workgroup, Jimmy Jackson of Huntsville, Ala., ruled during the workgroup's meeting on Feb. 18 that discussion on the matter would be limited only to the procedure in handling the two stories, not whether anyone was right or wrong; and that only members of the workgroup would be allowed to discuss the matter.

Pressler, who brought into the room a suitcase full of printed materials, objected strongly to the ruling which prevented him from presenting four hours of testimony he said he had prepared.

In interviews after the meeting, Pressler complained the ruling was grossly unfair. "I don't know why these people are suppressing the truth I had 35 grievances against Baptist Press I wanted to present, but they wouldn't let me speak."

Instead of hearing testimony by Pressler and Baptist Press Director Wilmer C. Fields, the public relations workgroup discussed wording of the

recommendation which finally was adopted by the full Executive Committee.

On the second day of the meeting, the administrative and conventions arrangements subcommittee voted 15-6 to allow a full and complete discussion of the issue, including testimony by any who wanted to speak. Pressler, a leader in the movement some claim in trying to gain control of the SBC, is a member of the subcommittee.

## 45 minutes each

Frank Ingraham, a Nashville attorney and chairman of the subcommittee, ruled the committee would allow Pressler and Fields 45 minutes each to present their arguments.

Pressler passed out a seven-point, 65-page stack of documents detailing his complaints against Baptist Press.

In his written presentation, Pressler admitted tape recording the telephone conversation with Durham on Sept. 1, but denied he had done anything unethical or illegal. "I took the precaution of taping the conversation for several reasons," he said. He claimed "certain individuals on the liberal side in the convention have completely and totally misrepresented conversations I had with them"...

He added he recorded the conversation "for self-protection... to have a record of the telephone conversation..."

Pressler listed 35 objections to the story, including a charge Durham, in his complaint, had given "a bogus citation to the FCC code which has no relevance to the matters involved." He suggested someone must have advised and manipulated Durham to contact the FCC.

Pressler also charged Baptist Press gives "liberals" in the convention "full and ample opportunity to respond" to accusations, but "conservatives are not always afforded that privilege." He further complained about use of writers "with fixed prejudices."

"The question is whether the present employees of the Baptist Press are so firmly directed in their mind set that they are unwilling or unable to look at what is occurring in the SBC from an alternate viewpoint from their own, or whether they are incapable of separating their personal prejudices from their reporting of the events that are occurring within the convention," Pressler concluded.

He asked the committee to examine the two stories and determine if "libel" was committed, and argued he was defamed by the articles which show "an intent to harm or malice."

In response to Pressler's charges, Fields made a brief statement and passed out copies of the related Baptist Press articles. He said Baptist Press carried 1,118 stories last year, and only 22 of those stories (1.9 percent) could be considered "negative stories" about controversial issues to which someone might object. Of the 1,118 stories carried, Baptist Press

received complaints only about three articles, including the Pressler complaint, according to Fields.

Fields said he regretted very much that time and space limitations caused the mailing of the second story to be delayed one day. He said that if the incident could be done over again, the two stories would have been mailed the same day.

Much of Baptist Press' response to Pressler's charges was devoted to a presentation by Southern Baptist Press Association President Bob Terry, editor of Word and Way, news-journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, who summarized a six-page "Report of Special Inquiry" commissioned and paid for by the press association.

The six-page report was prepared by journalism professors John Merrill of Louisiana State University, Clifford Christians of the University of Illinois; and John DeMott of Memphis State University. All three are members of the ethics subcommittee of the Association for Education in Journalism's committee on professional freedom and responsibility.

The journalism professors said they found no "evidence of ill will toward Pressler," and no evidence the BP staff was "motivated by unprofessional intentions to damage the reputations of the principals involved."

"Release of the report of Sept. 17, without the response of Pressler, was not unfair under the peculiar circumstances existing, and therefore did not constitute poor journalism," the professors said. They described BP's dilemma this way: "Should a reporter report the news immediately, even though the response to some accusation contained in it cannot be included in the first report... or should he suppress the news temporarily while getting the response?"

"... It is difficult to fault BP for the decision it made, and few news editors would do so," the professors said. "The decision made by BP is one made every day by many news organizations practicing the highest standards in our profession."

The professors said the BP stories in question "show exemplary restraint and discretion in what is admittedly a potentially sensational event. They are both news accounts which refrain from editorializing. They do not speculate regarding motives, editorialize about the ethics involved, or entertain reflections from unattributed sources."

"The news releases," they continued, "appear to us to show the commendable vigor of effective journalism combined with the restraint that is demonstrated among the most responsible in the news profession today."

Pressler was not satisfied with their study, however, saying in an interview afterwards it was done by "hired guns" who were "paid" to say what they did.

After the hearing, Pressler said he

was pleased the committee had heard his complaint, and that his side of the story had been told.

Fields observed the Executive Committee members and staff had talked themselves together on the proper role of Baptist Press. "It is highly significant that the committee voted to reaffirm its support for a responsible and free press as an essential element for an informed Southern Baptist constituency," he said.

Newton writes for the Home Mission Board.

## Medical center holds services

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Baptist Student Union is sponsoring a Religious Emphasis Week which began Monday, Feb. 25. MBMC students had a devotional on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday prior to their classes.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7-10 p.m., there was a prayer time to spiritually prepare for the programs on the following two days. Keith Tonkel, pastor at Wells United Methodist Church, is speaking at noon on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 28 and March 1. Prior to the message, Sarah Taylor, wife of Howard Taylor, pastor of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, and their son David, who is a junior at Mississippi College, will be singing and playing the trumpet. Everyone is invited.

Chairmen for the Religious Emphasis activities have been Sharon Miley, MBMC Radiography student; and Carla Mooney, MBMC Medical Technology student. Participating students are from MBMC's Medical Technology School, MBMC's Radiography School, Hinds Junior College, Mississippi College, and University Medical Center.

## Pari-mutuel wagering fails

A pari-mutuel betting bill that would have allowed voters in Jackson and Tunica Counties to decide whether to build horseracing tracks in their counties has died for this legislative session.

The bill's major supporter, Sen. Louis Fortenberry of Pascagoula, moved to table the bill, explaining that he did not have enough votes to get the bill passed. Endorsed in the House, the bill had failed once in the Senate, but a motion to reconsider revived it temporarily.

## Woolmarket meet features Zig Ziglar

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, is sponsoring an Evangelism Conference, March 10-13, that will feature Zig Ziglar, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sessions begin at 6:45 nightly with other preaching by Ron Herrod, James Merritt, Jerry Passmore, Frank Gunni, Bobby Perry, and Donnie Guy.

Music will be led by Jasper Butler, Bobby Dean, and Stephen White.

For more information, phone (601) 392-5622.

## Wycliffe reaches 1,000

DALLAS, Tex. (EP)—It took Wycliffe Bible Translators only 50 years to enter 1,000 languages for translation work, but entering the next 1,000 languages is expected to take less than half that long.

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# Sessions in Greenville offer doctrinal, practical studies

"Doctrine and practice are directions the Bible conferences will take in the rescheduled Evangelism/Bible Conference, March 11-12, at First Baptist Church, Greenville," according to Keith Wilkinson, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department director.

"The Bible Conferences give Mississippi Baptist pastors and lay leaders opportunity to balance inspiration with practical application to evangelism and Bible teaching," said Wilkinson.

Two new conferences have been added to the rescheduled conference. They include "Using the Growth Spiral For Growth in Bible Study and Evangelism" to be led by James Fitch, supervisor of the Growth Section Baptist Sunday School Board. Two state-wide Growth Spiral Conferences had been scheduled for the week that was used for the rescheduled Evangelism/Bible Conference. "We believe that many pastors will want to avail themselves of the opportunity to use the growth spiral as a

plan for reaching more people." Farrell Blankenship will lead a conference on "Communicating the Gospel: Through TV Programming."

Additional conferences include "The Doctrine of Christ" to be led by Ray Robbins; "The Pastor as Bible Teacher" led by W. O. Vaught of Little Rock, Ark.; "The Bible and Church Growth" led by Ron Lewis of Church Growth Designs, Nashville; "God's Call To Give" led by James Powell of Nashville; "Sharing God's Word Through Scripture Distribution," led by Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Amory.

"These conferences emphasize growth, growth through Bible teaching, giving, and reaching people," stated Wilkinson. "The Conference of Scripture Distribution will be a significant beginning of preparation for the Good News America Revivals in 1986."

Plenary sessions of the Evangelism-Bible Conference begin at 1:30 p.m., March 11, and conclude Tuesday evening, March 12.

## ACTS opens offices in New York, Atlanta

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The American Christian Television System opened regional offices in New York City and Atlanta Jan. 15.

These are the first regional offices for ACTS, which is operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. In its first six months of operation, the network has signed 136 TV systems to carry its family and Christian entertainment programs 24 hours a day.

The purpose of the offices, according to Ron Dixon, ACTS' vice-president of media services, will be to assist state ACTS directors in those

areas in their efforts to sign new cable TV affiliates and get churches involved in local programming. The offices are necessary because of "accelerated growth and geographic expansion," he said.

The New York office will be managed by Bill Nichols, ACTS director of broadcast services and regional manager for the Northeast. Nichols, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Albany, Ga., has been with ACTS three years. He is a native of West Palm Beach, Fla. The office will cover Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The Atlanta office will be managed by Mike Wright, southeastern regional manager. Wright, a native of Crescent City, Calif., has been a consultant for ACTS for two years. The office will cover Alabama, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

"In addition to being more accessible to the state directors, this move also is good stewardship," Dixon said. "We will spend more time on the field rather than traveling back and forth to Texas."

## Suitable candidate

(Continued from page 2) church? If you were asked to make a decision about allowing this man to become a member of your church family, how would you vote?

By the way, his name is Jesus!

Linda Mattox is a member of Union Church, Rienzi.

## Vicksburg pastor, Ray Ming, dies

G. Ray Ming, pastor of Highland Church, Vicksburg, died Feb. 4, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services



were held at Highland on Feb. 7. Graveside services were at Murphy Creek Church, Louisville, on Feb. 8.

At the time of his death, Ming was completing his seventh year as pastor of Highland Church. In his 27 years as a minister, he had served churches in Louisville, Bay Springs, Brandon (Oakdale), Tylertown (New Zion), and Vicksburg in Mississippi, and at Cantonment, Fla.

Ming was called to the ministry while in the U.S. Air Force. In 1958, he enrolled in Clarke College. He was graduated from Mississippi College in 1967 and from New Orleans Seminary, with a master of theology degree, in 1971. He was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Swor to lecture at William Carey

Christian author, speaker, and youth conference leader Chester Swor will deliver the annual Thomas F. Staley Lectures at William Carey College March 4-6.

Formerly dean of men and assistant professor of English at Mississippi College, the 76-year-old Swor spends most of his time lecturing and counseling, mainly on college campuses. He is the author and co-author of eight books. "Very Truly Yours" has been translated into Spanish and Chinese.

The lecture series was established in 1969 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Staley of Rye, N.Y., in memory of their parents and is a project of the Thomas F. Staley Foundation of New York.

## Group votes . . .

(Continued from page 3) counsel John W. Baker, objected to the new arrangement as a violation of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. Exchanging ambassadors with a church, the brief argued further, shows preference for one religion over all others. In a novel argument, Baker told the district court the practice poses potential danger to overseas missionaries of all denominations by clouding their identity as religious representatives, especially in Third World countries.

Although the Executive Committee endorsed the Baptist Joint Committee brief and urged the agency to fight the matter through the federal appellate process, it stopped short of entering the case as a co-plaintiff, the other option available.

Last September the body declined any involvement in the case in spite of a Southern Baptist Convention resolution last June condemning U.S.-Vatican relations and a separate motion asking the Executive Committee to join any legal effort challenging the new arrangement.

Hasty writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

## Pray for MKs

March 3—Bolanda M. Harris, Jackson State University.

March 14—Edith F. Johnson, Guadeloupe, Itawamba Junior College.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 3-10 Week of Prayer For Home Missions (WMU Emphasis)
- Mar. 5 Key Leadership Seminar; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CM)
- Mar. 7-9 Church Music Conference; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; 6:30 p.m., 7th-Noon, 9th (CM)
- Mar. 7-9 Mississippi Baptist Religious Education; Biloxi (MBREA) Workshop on Video Production Techniques; FBC, Cleveland, 6:30-9:30 p.m. (DBS)



## Gospel Quartet Night

As a part of a celebration of 40 years of Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department's existence, there will be a Gospel Quartet Night at the Mississippi College Coliseum, March 23 at 7 p.m. This evening will include music by the Masters Five (in photo) and winners from associational quartet competitions. Cost of the musical evening will be \$6 at the door, \$5 single ticket in advance; and \$4 for groups of 15 or more purchased in advance.

Tickets may be purchased at the Baptist Book Store; Maranatha book stores, the Music Box, or the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more information contact the Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 968-3800.

## Dialogue designed to discover more ways to offer counseling

A counseling dialogue will take place at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 9 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. This meeting, according to organizer Richard Alford of the Cooperative Missions staff at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is to discuss "opportunities for professional counseling in a Christian context."

Alford said that the open dialogue is designed to discover ways for individuals to receive counseling in the more rural areas of Mississippi.

On hand will be at least six trained professionals in the field of counsel-

ing. These are Stanley Watson of New Orleans Seminary; Ken Gilburth and David Jones of Shepherd's Staff; Jack Follis of East Mississippi State Hospital; Jim Travis of University of Mississippi Medical Center; and Jonathan Waddell of Hinds General Hospital.

Invited are any persons "sensitive to the need for counseling in their area," said Alford. There is no cost for the dialogue, but anyone planning to attend should contact Alford at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 968-3800.

## Leaders to consider:

## New churches needed?

On March 14-15, church and associational leaders will gather at the Baptist Building in Jackson in consider the need for new churches in Mississippi.

Headlining the conference will be Nelson Tilton, Willie McPherson, Clay Price, and Bill Long from the Home Mission Board, and Earl Kelly of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The conference is open to church and associational leaders who are or are considering sponsoring new work and for persons leading in new missions and churches at present.

A broad range of experiences will be shared by those currently involved in starting new churches. Participants will work in small groups around their primary interests and available denominational resources will be explained.

This conference is sponsored by the Home Mission Board's Church Extension

Division with assistance from the Research Division and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Staff New Work Committee, the New Church Expansion Committee, and the Church Building and Pastoral Aid Committee.

The conference begins with lunch at noon on March 14 and closes with lunch on the 15th. Reservations should be made with the Cooperative Missions Department by March 12.

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# Missionary claims dismissal due to Nicaraguan involvement

By Walker L. Knight

ATLANTA (BP) — James H. Gamble, a Baptist missionary in Anchorage, Alaska, has charged he was dismissed in January by the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board because of his intention to visit areas of conflict in Nicaragua.

Alaska Baptist leaders, however, claim Gamble was dismissed for not doing the job he was hired to do and for stepping out of the line of supervision.

Gamble, a Christian Social Ministries worker, had planned to use his vacation starting Feb. 11 on a Witness for Peace on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. He said he still intended to go.

The intended visit to Nicaragua "was a catalyst" which precipitated the dismissal, according to John Allen of Anchorage, executive director for the Alaska Baptist Convention. Allen charged Gamble had contacted HMB personnel over the heads of his local supervisors, adding "I don't even know who Witness for Peace is."

Witness for Peace is an ecumenical faith group, with regional offices throughout the U.S., opposing the "undeclared U.S. war against Nicaragua by participating in a continual, nonviolent presence in the areas of conflict."

Volunteers, usually in groups of 18, have been spending two weeks in Nicaragua since 1983. Other Southern Baptists have participated, and Glen Stassen, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been on the group's advisory council.

Gamble said he had contacted Paul Adkins of Atlanta, director of Christian social ministries department of the HMB, early in January about his intentions. "I had a 14-day vacation coming up and there was a two-and-a-half week Witness for Peace tour scheduled at the same time. I thought it would be a meaningful way to use my vacation time," he explained.

When he told Adkins he would need two additional days, Adkins warned him the trip was controversial and he could not give him permission for the extra days, only his Alaska supervisors could. Adkins remembers Gamble saying he was not asking him for permission, just informing him he was going.

Adkins pressed him to notify his supervisors — Ferrell Mills, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, a sponsor of a center Gamble was to establish; Judy Rice, state Baptist director for CSM work; and Allen.

Gamble did, a few days after talking with Adkins, reach Judy Rice who was in Birmingham, Ala. When they finally talked, she told him he was to be fired. The dismissal came in a meeting with Allen, Mills, and the president of the Alaska Baptist Convention, Neil Thompson.

According to Gamble, he was given three reasons for the dismissal: 1) his lifestyle was incompatible with the goals and directions and the policy of the HMB and the ABC, 2) he had been counseled not to go to Nicaragua and 3) his protocol was incorrect.

Allen said the lifestyle comment was made during the meeting, but

was not given as a reason for the firing. Gamble remembers being told the lifestyle comment referred to "your picketing and your marching and your political activism." He had replied, "I have not been politically active at all while in Alaska."

Gamble admitted by-passing his supervisors, saying he and Mills were not getting along. "I felt he was looking for a reason to dismiss me," he said. Gamble reported nothing was said in the meeting about not doing his job.

Allen takes exception to Gamble's report. "We hired him to start a center in Mountain View, and a year later we still don't have it going," he said. "I had told him myself in the summer he had to get that center going."

Gamble said he opened the Mountain View Ministry Center in October, meeting in the buildings of two missions of Faith Baptist Church, and serving about 35 children.

"We started after-school programs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and recreation programs on Tuesday and Thursday," he explained. "To conduct these I was given \$50 program

money a month and \$50 a month for supplies. I had \$100 in hunger funds, also, and with it we helped three families." Gamble said he also had an advisory council for the center, and he felt the center had been established.

Gamble said in September his state supervisor, Rice, had given him an above average evaluation on his performance appraisal, a copy of which he had. He had met monthly with her, and she had given no indication of displeasure with his work.

"The Home Mission Board has not taken any action concerning his relationship to us, but based on our information relative to the administrative problems, we concurred with John Allen in the termination of his relationship to that work in Alaska," Palmer said.

"We have not discussed whether Gamble will be used elsewhere," he added.

Allen said Gamble was given 30 days' severance pay, 30 days' vacation pay and would be given \$1,000 relocation pay if he chooses to leave Alaska.

Knight edits SBC Today, an independent monthly.

## SBC Executive Committee

## Southern Baptist heads stress the "cooperative"

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist agency heads have stressed the "cooperative" in the Cooperative Program while adjusting the convention's national unified budget to current economic realities.

What one observer described as "possibly the best spirit of teamwork we have ever had in the budget planning process" was evident in the 1985-86 budget goal of \$130 million which was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at its February meeting.

Also approved was a plan to extend previously approved capital expenditures for 1984-88 through the 1989-90 fiscal year.

The proposals will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas next June for final approval.

The 1985-86 figure is the same as the 1984-85 budget goal, an attempt to bring budget expectations and receipts into harmony.

National Cooperative Program income has continued to post healthy increases in terms of "real dollars" over the past several years but the rapid drop in inflation put the long term budget planning process used by the SBC in a bind.

Budgets are approved two years in advance by messengers to the annual meeting. The 1983-84 budget goal assumed inflation of eight percent but the actual rate was about three percent and contributions — though up approximately \$10 million compared to 1982-83 — totalled just over \$108.8 million.

Projections for the 1984-85 indicate income should be around \$118 million.

Capital needs are not funded until the basic operating budget (\$114.5 million in 1983-84 and \$118 million in 1984-85) is met. Therefore \$3.4 million in capital needs from 1983-84 and \$6.87 million in 1984-85 were carried over into the 1985-86 planning process.

The 1985-86 provides \$120.6 million for the basic operating budget. Funding priority for income above that will go to the 1983-84 capital needs and 1984-85 capital needs will be funded next. The remaining \$1.56 million of the \$130 million is last on the priority list and will be distributed on the same percentage basis as the basic operating budget.

Each of the 19 SBC agencies which receive funding through the national Cooperative Program which is based on voluntary contributions from the 36 state conventions affiliated with the SBC) present budget requests to the Executive Committee which has the responsibility of recommending the budget to messengers to the convention.

Normally the SBC budget parameters are set during the September meeting of the Executive Committee but the belt-tightening process was extended five months this time until February.

In the 1985-86 basic operating budget the Foreign Mission Board will receive 50 percent; the Home Mission Board will receive 19.72 percent and the six SBC seminaries will share 20.56 percent, divided according to a complex formula based partially on enrollment.

Craig Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.

Thursday, February 28, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Conference will offer resort missions skills

Mississippi Baptists' first resort missions conference will feature leadership training in resort and leisure ministry techniques and in witness and ministry skills for resort activities.

This event will take place at Lake Tiak-O-Khata near Louisville, April 15-16. The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department, Richard Alford, consultant.

Leaders for the conference include Tom Eggleston who is on the staff of the Home Mission Board with expertise in special events and creative arts; and Chuck Clayton, national resort ministries consultant for the HMB.

Alford said the conference will of-

fer ministry skill development in areas such as flea markets, county fairs, raceways, and campgrounds.

For details contact Alford at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 968-3800.

## Colorado Baptists elect new director

COLORADO SPRINGS — Messengers from Colorado's Southern Baptist churches have elected their interim top executive to the post full time.

Charles E. Sharp, a 48-year-old Roswell, N. M. native, was elected Jan. 29 in a special called session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. (CBGC).

The election of Sharp as CBGC executive director-treasurer fills a post vacated June 30 after 22 years of service by Glen E. Braswell.

He will represent the state's 63,000 Southern Baptists in 217 churches.

The new executive holds a doctorate in music and educational administration from East Texas State University in Commerce. He served two decades as teacher and administrator in public schools and Southern Baptist colleges in Texas and Alabama.

He has been director of church music and church training for the multi-state Northern Plains Convention including areas north of Colorado to the Canadian border. He took a similar position on the Colorado convention staff in 1982.



Sharp

## Hugh Scarborough Day declared

Harrisville Church declared Feb. 10 as Hugh Scarborough Day. This was a celebration of Scarborough's 80th birthday and 49 years of serving the Lord at Harrisville Church. His work has included serving as Sunday School director 15 years, S.S. teacher for 25 years, Associational Sunday School director, Church Training teacher, deacon, church clerk, and serving on budget, nominating, pulpit, and building committees. He is presently Sunday School teacher and custodian.

The church honored him with a certificate. His Sunday School class gave him a set of commentaries.

Truman Scarborough, his son and pastor of East Philadelphia Baptist Church, brought the message at the morning worship hour.

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# Tennessean sees God's plan despite handicap, hardship

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Life's been no bed of roses for Imogene May but the 35-year-old eastern Tennessean has learned it's enough to simply "live for the Lord."

May, a full-time employee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where her husband, Richard, studies at Boyce Bible School, believes "the Lord uses my experiences. They open up witnessing opportunities and we all have our purpose."

Reared in a mountain community outside Chattanooga, Tenn., the 11th child of 12, May grew up poor and married at age 16. She describes her early life as "wild."

Losing her arm became the initial step to changing her life, she adds. "My husband drank heavily. One night after he had been drinking, he was cleaning a shotgun. It went off and literally blew my arm away."

May became aware of what dying might be like. "I had an experience of dying and I was very much aware that I was not going to heaven. People seldom talk of dying," she notes, "but when they do, they talk about going to heaven. I knew I wasn't."

After leaving the hospital, May moved to a tenant farm with her husband and two small children. Through the landowner and a revival meeting she was led to Christ, but soon after her husband left her. Struggling to provide for her daughters and partying to escape from her problems, May put God in her past. That is until the man

she was dating—Richard—accepted an invitation to hear another friend preach. During that service, Richard came to God and May rededicated her life.

They married and things were going pretty well for the two until Richard lost his job, May said. At the end of three months of searching, May said the two decided to do "what the Lord wanted us to. We didn't know why, but we decided to come here. We had \$5, an old car, and some clothes and dishes."

They looked up friends in Louisville and Richard secured a job the day he arrived, she recalled. "In the two years we've been here, we've had doors opened and all our needs met."

At present, the two are working with youth at Garfield Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville's west end.

"I really don't know what we'll do in the future but I know whatever it is, it will be rough. There's a lot of my life I wouldn't want to live over again but the Lord uses it now. When I get cocky, my arm's still here to keep me humble. It's helped change my outlook. I can do all things through Christ."

May realizes her past enables her to minister to others with special needs.

"I'm weak and struggling, but I'm still trying to live for the Lord," she affirms. "I've found there's peace and joy in being where you're supposed to be. All I ask anymore is that the Lord help me do things effectively."

## Letters to the Editor

### The marathoners

Editor:

My compliments to the Baptist Record for their recognition of marathoner Steve Smith on his 3:12 performance at the Mississippi Marathon. However, Rev. Smith is "out of the running" when it comes to holding the record for a Mississippi Southern Baptist preacher. As indicated by the article, all running aficionados know that the record belongs to Rev. Buddy Wagner of Clinton, a veteran of many marathons. He has run 36 minutes faster, for a time of 2 hours and 36 minutes.

Nationally, there are several "world class" marathoners who are also Baptist ministers and many hundreds who are serious competitors.

Dow Ford  
Clarke College

Huntsville, AL, in 1982, Buddy Wagner is one of the top runners in his age group across the state of Mississippi. He also ran and completed the Mississippi Marathon this past December.

I am sure that if you were to check, you would find many other preachers and ministerial staff involved in running or some form of aerobic exercise to maintain some type of physical conditioning.

Thank you for doing such a good job with the Mississippi paper. Keep up the good work.

Because he lives,  
Tommy Winders  
Tupelo

### Photo problems

Editor:

I am writing to inform you and through the Baptist Record other churches of a difficult problem we have experienced in the area of a photo directory. Last year we entered into an agreement with Bel-Air Studio of Louisville, Ky., to develop a photo church directory. The arrangement was typical, and we set up the normal committees. We believed all was in order.

The date of our first photo session came and the photographer was two hours late. When he arrived, we had to sober him up and clean him up. A phone call to the home office seemed to correct the problem somewhat. We were assured that from that point on we would incur no further problems.

The next difficulty came when they returned with the proofs. As long as a staff member was in the room, they were fine and helpful. However, when a staff member was not present, high pressure salesmanship was used.

The people were promised that the pictures would be returned in time for Christmas, as many were planning to

use them as gifts. The second week of December arrived without pictures for most people. I called Mr. Payne, president of Bel-Air Studios, about this and was assured the pictures would be processed and mailed immediately. When the pictures arrived, little if any touch up work had been done. For the people who wore glasses, the touch up looked as if it had been done with a magic marker.

Several of our people have called the state attorney general's office and filed complaints. It is my desire here to warn other churches and save them from the very bad experience we have had.

Cliff Shipp, pastor  
Highland Church, Jackson

### Unusual potential

Editor:

Many years ago, a poor farmer in North Carolina found what appeared to be nothing more than an attractive ordinary stone in a shallow creek, where it had lain unnoticed for centuries, and took it to his home, where for a long time it was used to hold his front door open. One day a geologist by chance stopped at the farmer's house and observed that the doorstep did not seem to be an ordinary rock. His examination disclosed that it was in reality a lump of gold—the largest ever found east of the Rocky Mountains.

Analogously, many people have dormant ability, potentially more valuable than the aforesaid lump of gold; but, failing to realize that they have it, they never use it and consequently fall far short of the usefulness and success which they are capable of achieving.

Let us carefully and prayerfully evaluate the natural and spiritual resources which the Creator has en-

## Russians get 10,000 Bibles

MOSCOW (BP)—A shipment of 10,000 Russian-language Bibles dispatched from the United Bible Society's headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany, arrived in Moscow Dec. 11 and have been distributed among the churches of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

"The believers have offered their thanksgiving to God for this blessed gift," a Baptist spokesperson said. The Bibles were financed with UBS funds along with European Baptist Federation contributions.

Also in December 1984, the AUCECB printed and distributed some 15,000 hymnals with music.

## SBC Executive Committee

# Committee approves ACTS fund campaign

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A three-year, \$6-million fund raising campaign to finance the ACTS television network has been approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, but approval to borrow up to \$10 million for 10 years has been delayed.

The action was taken during the February meeting of the Executive Committee, which is required by the SBC Business and Financial Plan to approve fund raising campaigns by national agencies, and to give consent for "incumbrances which cannot be repaid out of anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years."

The Radio and Television Commission, which operates the American Christian Television System network, had asked to be allowed to conduct a special solicitation drive to raise \$12.5 million to fund ACTS through fiscal 1986, and for authority to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year maturity.

The recommendation to delay approval of the total solicitation and the loan while approving the shorter term fund raising effort was made by the Business and Finance subcommittee after an all-day session with Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president, and other representatives of the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency.

Harmon Born of Atlanta, said the Executive Committee "is not trying to substitute our judgement for that of the trustees of the Radio and Television Commission. But we are required by the (business and) financial plan to study this. We must have all the data we can gather."

Born said representatives of the subcommittee will go to Fort Worth to study the matter as soon as the financial audit for fiscal 1984 is completed at the commission. The audit reportedly will be completed within 30 days.

Allen told Baptist Press he is "pleased" with the action of the Executive Committee in approving the solicitation campaign. "They did not turn down anything we asked," he said. "The key for us is the right — or

the privilege — to conduct a public campaign."

He said the only question to be resolved about the campaign is "whether it will be three or five years. We wanted it to be five years because it gives us more latitude to negotiate with groups. We can function with three years, but we would rather have had five years."

Allen added the committee "did not turn down" the request to borrow up to \$10 million, but postponed it "because they need more information. We have invited them to come here to Fort Worth to study it and they will report back (to the Executive Committee) in June."

John Roberts of Greenville, S.C., chairman of trustees and editor of the Baptist Courier, said the loan and the campaign are linked. "We are after the loan and the collateral. We are going to launch a fund campaign and then borrow against that. We need money faster than we can raise it. We need to go to the bank right away (to borrow the money) and then have a campaign to pay it back."

Roberts added: "Time is both our enemy and our friend right now. We think that in 24 to 30 months we will have sufficient revenues coming in to meet most of our obligations. But from now until then, we are going to be operating at a loss . . ."

Allen said the RTVC "has to raise something like \$7 million above the Cooperative Program" budget allocated to fund the operation of ACTS, a Christian television network operating 24 hours a day through cable television outlets and low and full power TV stations.

For 1984-85, the RTVC will receive \$4.9 million through the Cooperative Program (the denomination's unified plan of collecting and distributing funds). According to the commission's financial statement, the 1984-85 budget is \$13.1 million, of which nearly \$6 million will be used to fund ACTS.

Allen said the commission "has a cash flow problem now. We need \$1.1 million and that is part of the bridge the \$10 million loan would take care of."

RTVC trustees, during their January meeting, gave approval for a \$1.4 million short term line of credit to pay current operating expenses of the network. Agency executives have authority to borrow that amount without Executive Committee approval.

Dan Martin is Baptist Press News Editor.

Editor:

While reading the Feb. 14 issue of the Baptist Record, I was glad to see the accomplishment of Steve Smith of Wellman Baptist Church in Brookhaven. Anyone who completes a marathon is to be congratulated.

As far as the members of Wellman Church knew, their pastor was the first Southern Baptist preacher in Mississippi to accomplish this feat.

May I bring them up to date about some other runners among the ministerial group? I know there are probably others that I am not aware of, but I know that Dr. Gene Henderson of First Baptist Church in Greenville; Sammy Crawford, minister of education at Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus; Bob Waldrop, former minister of music at Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus; Buddy Wagner of Mississippi College; and Tommy Winders, full-time evangelist of Tupelo, all ran and completed the Humana Rocket City Marathon in



## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### Annie Kersh: "A good name . . ."

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1). That was the favorite Bible verse of Annie Kersh, widely known as Miss Annie. For 95 years, she kept her good name polished and shining.



Born April 17, 1889, in Rankin County, she spent all her nearly 96 years there. Her parents (and I suppose her grandparents) lived there, too; she was a descendant of the Kersh family who moved from the Orangeburg District in South Carolina to Mississippi about 1828—one of the first families to settle in Rankin County. (My mother was born in Chambers County, Ala., on March 4, 1908. Happy birthday next week, Mama!)

In 1828, the Methodists among those early Rankin settlers established Shiloh, the now famous campground where people go and stay in cabins every year in August for a week or two of revival meetings. Annie grew up near Shiloh. She and her family were Methodists. (In 1978, on the 150th year of Shiloh's beginning, Annie Kersh was present for the anniversary celebration, and, as the oldest person attending, received a plaque.)

Marriage didn't change her name—for she was a Kersh and married a Kersh. But it played a role in her change from Methodist to Baptist. Walter Kersh, another Rankin Countian, was a farmer and a Baptist. With him, she moved over to the Rock Hill area and began attending the Rock Hill Baptist Church. By the time of her death on January 2, 1985, she had "held every office in the church except that of deacon and pastor."

She married Walter on a Saturday, somewhere around 1919. I can just see her as she must have looked then—small, with large grey eyes and dark brown hair, a glowing bride. And he must have been a handsome man, for he was quite popular. That afternoon, they went to an outdoor church social. Just for fun, they decided not to tell anyone that they were married. Annie laughed about it later, but that afternoon it was not too funny. Several young women kept flirting with her new husband. In fact, she hardly saw him all afternoon because one of them, who had a big crush on Walter, invited him to walk to the spring with her.

A good name Miss Annie chose, rather than riches. And "loving favour" she earned from all those she touched along the way. I've heard that "she was busy all her life, doing for others." She often cared for sick people.

One ministry that she and her husband particularly enjoyed working at together (he died in 1963) was to keep a room ready—"the prophet's chamber"—for the Rock Hill pastors to occupy when they came to the church field on weekends. Many of the early pastors were students from Mississippi College, and came only on

weekends. Also, for a long time, the church had preaching only once or twice a month. The pastor could always be assured of finding a bed and a good meal at the Kersh house. In this way, Miss Annie could use her talent for cooking, and her gift of hospitality. One of C. C. Caraway's first pastorates was at Rock Hill. It was he who preached her funeral sermon.

Altus Newell was another of her young minister friends. During his pastorate at Rock Hill (his first), the church proclaimed Annie Kersh Day. Newell was recently installed as president of the International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Making quilts was her favorite hobby. But Miss Annie couldn't bear to keep all that beauty for herself. She pieced the pomegranate, the tulip, the Dutch doll, the double wedding ring, and many other designs. She gave a quilt to every pastor and music director at Rock Hill. One of those pastors was Vance Dyess. She gave quilts to couples who married, to seniors who graduated. Sometimes quilts went to relatives or to friends and neighbors, like Foy Rogers.

She liked to sing and play the organ. When Tom Larrimore was interim minister at Rock Hill, he would often stop by her house and sing "Amazing Grace," her favorite—so she gave him two quilts.

Not many people, I imagine, remember spinning the thread and weaving the cloth from which they pieced their quilts. Miss Annie did. In her younger days, she used the spinning wheel which has occasionally since been displayed in the public schools of Brandon at Thanksgiving time. (Her three sisters who are still living, ages 88, 90, and 91, probably helped her spin.)

Flower gardening was another of her loves. She especially liked roses. And she named her daughter for a flower—Violet.

I never met Miss Annie, but I have seen many of her unselfish traits in her daughter. I've known Violet almost as long as I've lived in Jackson. Back in 1954, when I lived at 821 North Congress, she lived in the 700 block. Her skill in the beauty salon is an artistry. She was working at Arcola's Beauty Circle on Yazoo Street for a long time, but for the past two and half years she has lovingly and compassionately cared for her mother, day and night. Violet is a gracious and charming woman, a beautiful person. Now that I know more about her mother, I understand why.

### Mrs. Baker's peach pie

Mattie E. (Mrs. O. P.) Baker of Route 1, Gore Springs, sent me an unusual recipe for peach pie. I have tried it and found it just as good as she claimed it to be.

2 large hamburger buns; one pint or more of peaches cut in small pieces. Break buns into small pieces and make layers with peaches. Make a sauce with 2 cups sugar, 1½ cups

## Volunteers head to Ethiopia; missionaries gear up for relief

By Robert O'Brien

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)—Southern Baptist volunteers have begun arriving in Ethiopia and others are on the way as missionaries in the drought-choked country gear up a relief and development ministry in the Menz-Gishe area.

The project includes short-term feeding, health care, and dry ration distribution and such long-term development as agriculture, water catchment, irrigation, sheep breeding, veterinary medicine, and community health.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Ethiopia have been working through the frustrating, time-consuming tasks of securing storage and feeding facilities, permits, visas, transportation, equipment, supplies, and Ethiopian workers to get the program underway and set volunteers into the country.

Missionary Jerry Bedsole said the first two loads of food went into Menz-Gishe in early February and that another 200 metric tons, secured through cooperation with the Lutheran World Federation, would be ready about two weeks later.

While food distribution gets underway, missionaries are exploring plans to double the 15,000 people who will be

fed initially and then expand even further. They've also investigated possible use of helicopters, which would improve access to remote areas, speed up emergency food transportation from eight hours of travel on body-pounding bad road to minutes by air, and allow transportation to continue if rains shut down the road.

Missionaries have already spent \$200,000 in Southern Baptist hunger and relief funds to gear up the effort. They're expected to ask for another \$220,000 for additional needs in the next phase of their extended commitment to short-term hunger relief and long-range development.

John Cheyne, the Southern Baptist Foreign-Mission Board's human needs consultant, predicts the effort may require more than \$1 million in hunger and relief funds in 1985.

Meanwhile the Foreign Mission Board has been processing applications to fill an urgent need for two volunteer nurses willing to work one or two years, beginning in August, to conduct feeding and health care in Menz-Gishe.

Two other volunteer nurses, Mary Saunders of Richmond, Va., and Sally Jones of Atlanta, Ga., will work there for several months until the

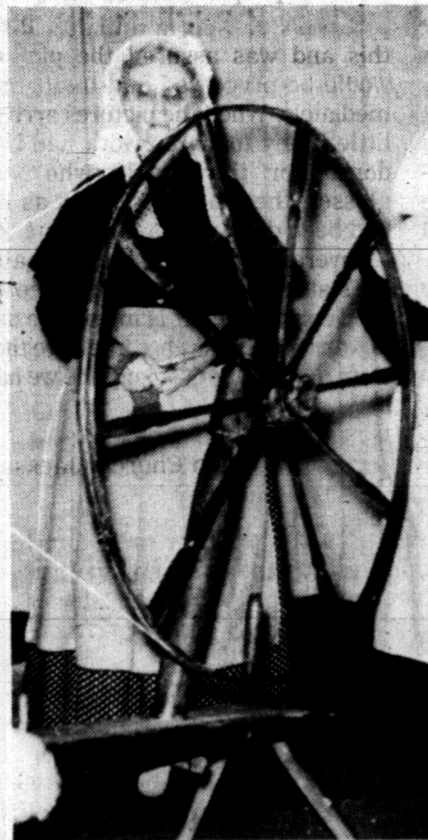
long-term nurses arrive. Saunders, a former missionary to Africa, is the wife of David Saunders, Foreign Mission Board director for eastern and southern Africa. Jones grew up in Kenya, where her parents, Tom and Nancy Jones, are missionaries.

Ed and Vi Mason, Floridians who spent two previous one-year volunteer terms in Ethiopia, have arrived to work as volunteer field directors of the relief effort from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city.

A volunteer couple from Texas, Bob and Yvonne Walls, will fill a similar role in Menz-Gishe. They'll take over logistics there from John Lawrence, a volunteer veterinarian from Louisiana who has worked in the country since September 1983.

Volunteers Everett and Kay Martin from Texas also have arrived in Ethiopia to assume Lawrence's veterinary teaching duties at a government agricultural and veterinary school near Addis Ababa. They'll also assist in relief and development efforts.

O'Brien is a missionary journalist writing for the Foreign Mission Board.



Annie Kersh displays her spinning wheel in a Thanksgiving display in a public school at Brandon.

## Child's mite helps hungry

By Orville Scott

ANDREWS, Texas (BP)—Seven-year-old Candace Porter of Andrews, Texas, has given the "widow's mite"—\$30.07 for the starving people in Africa.

As the Bible tells in Luke 21:2-4, Christ saw a poor widow giving a small coin and observed that hers was the greatest gift because it was all she had.

Candace, whose parents, Dennie and Cindy, are Sunday school teachers at First Baptist Church, Andrews, had saved up nickels and dimes since she was four. Candace and her mother had been deeply moved by the televised scenes of starving Africans.

"I felt bad because they were starving," said Candace. "Sometimes I would see it and cry, and my brothers would tease me, and I couldn't hear them because I was crying too loud."

So she sent all of her savings, "plus 50 cents from the tooth fairy," said her mother. "She did it all on her own. We didn't know she was doing it 'till later."

In a letter "To the starving people of Africa," Candace wrote, "I wish you didn't have to starve like that. We're warm at night, and you all are freezing. I wish we were freezing and you were warm, but I guess that isn't true. I hope that someday you will be like us. We all love you."

Candace signed her name and the names of her parents and two brothers.

Roger Hall, treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said all of Candace's gift will be used directly by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to help alleviate hunger.

"Like the widow's mite," said Hall, "Candace's unselfish example will live forever, blessing the lives of countless people."

Scott writes for Texas Baptists.

## Irwin ordained

HOUSTON, Tex. (EP)—James Irwin, who walked on the moon as an astronaut, has been ordained as a Baptist minister.

The mind grows by what it feeds on.  
— J. G. Holland

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# Reagan renews appeal for his 'social agenda'

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Reagan has renewed his call on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment restoring official prayer to the nation's public school classrooms and to enact tuition tax credit and anti-abortion legislation.

Delivering his fifth State of the Union address to the joint session of Congress and on the 74th birthday, Reagan told the lawmakers his "Second American Revolution" has included a renewal of traditional values. "Of all the changes that have swept America the past four years," he declared, "none brings greater promise than our rediscovery of the values of faith, freedom, family, work, and neighborhood."

He cited increased church attendance, optimism about the future, and patriotism as examples and made a point of commending lawmakers for passing equal access legislation last year. The measure gives secondary school students who want to conduct religious meetings on public school property the same rights enjoyed by other extracurricular, nonacademic groups.

At the same time, Reagan asked again for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions outlawing state-sponsored prayers in public schools. He said "no citizen need tremble, nor the world shudder, if a child stands in a classroom and breathes a prayer."

Although he mentioned tuition tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools only in passing, a White House "fact sheet" distributed to reporters showed the president once more will ask Congress to pass legislation providing a \$300 credit per child by 1987. The law would be phased in over a three-year period, with a \$100 per child credit in tax year 1985, a \$200 credit in 1986 and the full \$300 benefit in 1987. No tuition

tax credits would be available to families with income above \$60,000.

In addition, Reagan renewed a request first made of Congress two years ago to provide education vouchers to poor families who could then cash them at either public or private schools. The aid would be available only at the discretion of states and localities, however.

On the increasingly volatile abortion issue, the President reiterated his appeal for legislation "to protect the unborn," but stopped short of endorsing one approach over another. Declaring the issue "grips our nation," Reagan went on to say: "Abortion is either the taking of human life, or it isn't; and if it is — and medical technology is increasingly showing it is — it must be stopped."

He also described as "a terrible irony" the shortage of newborn babies available for adoption and added, "We have room for these children; we can fill the cradles of those who want a child to love."

On another moral issue under current scrutiny, Reagan said "in keeping with the will of the overwhelming majority of Americans," the death penalty should be used. "We do not seek to violate rights of defendants," he said. "But shouldn't we feel more compassion for victims of crime than for those who commit crime?"

Reagan also restated the broad outline of defense policies he believes are necessary to convince the Soviet Union to negotiate in good faith for the reduction of nuclear armaments. Declaring the U.S. is "poised as never before to create a safer, freer, more peaceful world," he added: "All of us have no greater dream than to see the day when nuclear weapons are banned from this Earth forever."

Haste writes for the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

## Experts search for clues to increase in teen suicides

The tragic dimensions of a nationwide "suicide epidemic" among young people continue to haunt American society.

Experts are trying to isolate reasons for the fact that suicide among Americans age 15 to 24 rose 136 percent between 1960 and 1980, the last year for which complete statistics are available.

In 1960 the suicide rate for that age group was 5.2 per 100,000 young people. In 1980 the rate was 12.3 per 100,000. One in every five suicides in 1980 involved victims in the 15-to-24-year age group. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in this age group.

Last year young Americans killed themselves at a rate of 100 per week—a total of 5,200. More than 500,000 attempted suicide.

Incidents of "cluster suicides," strings of conceivably "copycat" suicides, have attracted particular attention.

Psychologists have cited increasing

child abuse, fear of nuclear holocaust, alcoholism, and family dissolution as causes for suicidal behavior.

But experts also are pointing to another factor: the availability of firearms in the home. Nearly two-thirds of teens who killed themselves use guns, and four-fifths of them use handguns, according to experts.

—Compiled from news sources

## Off the Record

Two transport drivers were taking a cargo into Canada for the first time. Late in the evening, they stopped at a large town, parked their truck and entered a diner. A cute waitress approached them.

"What town is this?" asked one of the drivers.

"Saskatoon, Saskatchewan," sang out the waitress.

The driver turned to his companion and exclaimed: "Now we're in a real mess. They don't even speak English here!"

## Devotional

### The love of self for God's sake

By Gayle Alexander  
Luke 10:27

Most of us would think that the 'love of God for God's sake' which is far above both, 'the love of self for self's sake,' and 'the love of God for self's sake,' would represent the pinnacle of spiritual maturity. However, Bernard of Clairvaux places a fourth stage beyond these three. The highest level of love according to him is 'the love of self for God's sake.' This may sound a note of surprise to the ears of sensitive Christians. But wait, is it not true that the hardest person in the world to love is oneself? The ability to accept and forgive oneself is a tremendous ability. Remember the Bible says, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

This reflects a sad truth about most people. Deep down, most of us do not like who we are. Rejection of self may go back almost to the beginning of life, where one has never liked what he saw in the mirror. To fantasize about being taller, better looking, etc., is a dead giveaway that one has not come to accept his own person.

The love of self for God's sake is to accept oneself as an act of creation by a loving God. I do not speak of love of self in any arrogant sense of the word, but in grateful delight that God has given to each the gift of selfhood. To find this kind of love of self is to credit God with glory since it is God who made men.

Furthermore, it means that one is free to accept himself with all his human limitations. Indeed this is a "truth that can make one free," free to be himself. Functionally, this is to be free from the struggle of always seeking to become somebody. It is the freedom to accept oneself as already being somebody. Hence, there is no need for sham, pretense, or hypocrisy.

Moreover, it means that one is not only able to accept the forgiveness of God, but also, he is able to forgive himself. To forgive oneself is one of the most difficult acts of life.

In light of the above would you not agree with me that Bernard was right in that 'love of self for God's sake' is the greatest challenge of all?

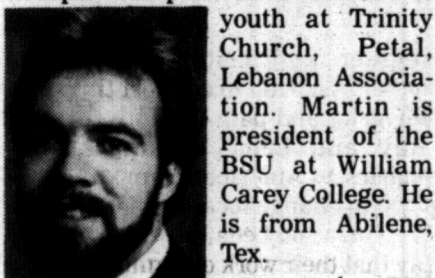
## Staff Changes

Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, has called David Perry as pastor. Perry moved to Mt. Zion from Easthaven Church, Brookhaven. His ministry at Mt. Zion began Feb. 13. Perry and his wife, Faye, have one daughter.

Richard White has resigned the pastorate of Cambridge Church, Jackson County.

Chuck McMinn, Itta Bena native and former minister of youth and music at Skene Church, has taken the position of minister of youth and music at West Marks Church, Marks. He attended Holmes Junior College and Delta State University. He and his wife, Carla, and their daughter moved from Cleveland.

Scott Martin, a senior ministerial student at William Carey College, has accepted the position as minister of youth at Trinity Church, Petal, Lebanon Association. Martin is president of the BSU at William Carey College. He is from Abilene, Tex.



Martin

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, has called Mike Snowden as part-time minister of music. Nathan Cothen, youth director at Bayou View, has resigned to accept a pastorate in Louisiana.

Mrs. Gloria Dupree has been employed by Diamondhead Church, Gulf Coast, as church secretary.

Kittiwake Church, Gulf Coast, has called Tim Miller as pastor. Miller is a student at New Orleans Seminary. His father, J. B. Miller, served several churches in Mississippi before moving to Tennessee.

Dean Register was recently called as pastor of First Church, Gulfport. He left First Church, Franklin, N. C. where he served as pastor since 1982.

Register, a native of Georgia, is a graduate of Valdosta State College and received master of divinity and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He has written extensively, including articles from Outreach, Sunday School Leadership, Leadership Journal, Proclaim, and The Biblical Recorder. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children.

Sue McAllister is the new director of youth ministry for Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. She had been serving in the same position as interim.

Calvary Church, Lowndes County, has called Mrs. Rhonda Beasley as minister of youth. She formerly served in First Church, Vernon, Ala., in a similar capacity.

## Judge blocks law

BECKLEY, W. Va. (EP)—West Virginia's new school prayer law has been temporarily blocked by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Hallanan. Witnesses said the measure may make children pray when they don't want to.

The "Voluntary Prayer in School Amendment" won overwhelming approval in the last election. The measure required all public schools to hold periods of "prayer, contemplation or meditation" each day, but restricted teachers from requiring that students participate in the period.

## Gulf Coast adds two

Gulf Coast Association, Bobby Perry, director of missions, has announced that two men have been added to its staff. They are George Abrams and Richard Colwell.

Abrams, former pastor of Sharon Church, and now retired, will serve as director of the Seaman Center ministry. Colwell, pastor of East Howard Church, Biloxi, is serving as director of language ministries.

They will fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Paul Vandercook on Jan. 1, and will serve on an interim basis until other staff needs are determined by the association's Administrative Committee.

## Missionaries on furlough

Missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi:

Larry and Cheryl Cox, 619 Holly Ridge, Vicksburg, Burkina Faso; Paul and Brenda Lee, Spain, 207 S. Washington St., Starkville; Don and Margie Mines, Argentina, Pine Trails Apts., Apt. M-5, Clinton; James and Mary Slack, Philippines, 2334 Coronet Place, Jackson; James and Gwen Young, Bangladesh, 1625 Easy St., Yazoo City;

Gerald and Glenda Davis, Philippines, 520 Magazine St., Tupelo; James and Peggy Jean Bartley, Uruguay, Pine Trails Apts. Apt. 6-M, Springridge Road, Clinton; Mary Alice Ditsworth, Indonesia, 4610 Orchard Road, Pascagoula; Emogene Harris, Nigeria, Box 290, Cato Road, Brandon; George and Robbie Petter, Nigeria, c/o Mrs. Carol Hood, 229 Alida St., Clarksdale; John and Jean Jacobs, Trinidad, 100 Miller Circle, Booneville; Jerald and Elaine Perrill, Thailand, 100 Georgia Ave., Hattiesburg; Jerry and Glenda White, Korea, 416 Ford, Columbia.

## Southeastern gifts increase in '84

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., reported an increase of nearly one million dollars in gifts during 1984.

According to figures just released, gifts to the Southern Baptists Convention seminary rose to \$1,809,050 for 1984 from \$883,649 in 1983, a whopping 117 percent. The number of donors increased by 68 percent.

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# Just for the Record

Thursday, February 28, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



A note burning celebration was held Feb. 10 at West Heights Church, Pontotoc. The sanctuary, which seats approximately 600, was dedicated on Nov. 24, 1974. All notes have been retired and the building is debt free. Pictured lighting the note: Pastor James Spencer; Wilton Chism, chairman of deacons,

who holds the burning note; members of the Building and Finance Committees when the sanctuary was constructed — (L to R) Jerry Tutor, Gara Edwards, Janie Wallace, Ralph Mitchell, Jimmie Stegall, and A. B. Godfrey.



New Prospect Church, Iuka (Tishomingo) recently held ground breaking services for a 3,000 sq. ft. addition which will have a fellowship hall and five classrooms. Jerry Swimmer led the services in scripture and prayer. The Building Committee members are Tommy Purvis, chairman, D. F. Frederick, Danny Davis, Mrs. Betty Swimmer, and Mrs. Dot Hannon. Eugene Walden is pastor.



The Acteen Ministerettes and the Accenters of the Prentiss Church were honored in an Acteens Studiact Recognition Service Feb. 10. The theme was "By Love Compelled." Six girls had completed steps for queen, six for queen regent, and one for queen regent in service. A reception followed the program. **Queens** were Allyson Carter, Christy Magee, Amanda Polk, Ellen Smith, Allison Speights, and Stacy Stamps. **Queens**

**regent:** Holly Benzenhafter, Renee Berry, Linda Little, Karen Pace, Jan Price, and Melissa Richmond. **Queen regent in service:** Holly Benzenhafter. Acteen Ministerettes leader is Betty Berry. Accenters leaders are Emily Benzenhafter and Elizabeth Rhea. Acteens director is Mary Martha Berry. (Photo by Marty Kittrell, **Prentiss Headlight**).



Acteens and GAs of Bethel Church, Louisville, recently were honored in a recognition service. Left to right, front row, Stephanie Kelley, Dawn Easley, Paige Edwards, Jenni Rodgers, Christy Ming, Sharon Rodgers (GA leader), Leigh Ann Eaves. Second row, Tabby Ming, Kim Ivy, Lori Sanders, Lisa Sloan, Jen Parks, Donna Triplett, Monica Cockrell (Acteens leader), Lindsey Sanders.

## Missionaries share prayer needs

By Carol Garrett

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Concern for their work, personal crisis, lack of funds, health and safety are few of the prayer needs of home missionaries. Each request is different, as each missionary is different.

This diversity of need is particularly reflected in some of the prayer requests being expressed for this year's March 3-9 Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

Jerry Fleming, former preacher and chaplain, works as a storekeeper on an oil rig 40 miles off the New Orleans coast. He does this in order to share Christ with his fellow workers who live half their lives without benefit of clergy. Still, Fleming feels his work is only a "drop in the bucket," and prays for a full-time chaplain to work with these men.

Pat Bailey is another missionary overwhelmed with the massiveness of her task. Bailey serves as chaplain at

Chicago's Cooke County Hospital, one of the largest public hospitals in the nation. Bailey prays for a Mission Service Corp volunteer to assist in the multitude of responsibilities there.

At Herman Hospital in Houston, Chaplain Nancy Ditch faces family strife, child abuse, and accident and burn victims every day. This work is physically and emotionally exhausting.

Hillside Baptist Center in Richmond, Va., is located in a community where many forms of violence can be found, including murders and shootings. Home missionary Jane Jackson is director of the center. Join her in prayer for more dedicated volunteers to help with the young people there.

Pray for Manuel Alonso, state language program director for New York, and his wife Ivette. A fall automobile accident killed one

daughter and critically injured another. Ask God to comfort them in their grief and pain.

Ray and Lena Viliamu, missionaries to American Samoa, were forced to change locations to Hawaii when their son became seriously ill. Pray that their work on Samoa can be continued despite this setback.

In Tucson, Ariz., Robert B. Patterson works toward starting a new work called Mt. Lemmon Highway Mission. With the help of Southern Baptist prayers, he hopes to start services and Bible fellowships soon.

Finally, pray for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$30 million. In 1985, the Home Mission Board was able to fund 176 priority new projects totaling \$1,073,000, but was unable to fund 322 projects totaling \$2,230,000. Sixty-nine missionary positions were not funded.

Carol Garrett writes for WMU, SBC.

## National Baptists to build adjacent to ABTS campus

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. broke ground Jan. 24 for a multimillion dollar facility adjacent to the campus of American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn.

National Baptists have sponsored ABTS jointly with the Southern Baptist Convention since 1924. The NBC, Inc., is the largest black religious organization in the world with 30,000 churches and seven million members worldwide, according to Cecilia Adkins, executive director of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the NBC, Inc., which is located in Nashville.

The facility, to be known as the World Baptist Center, is the first building to be constructed by the NBC, Inc., since 1935 when the publishing board headquarters were built, according to T. L. Jemison, president of the NBC, Inc.

In an article published in the *National Baptist Voice*, the convention's news organ, Jemison said a national headquarters is needed because the convention has grown in number and in the range of programs and ministries.

"We must bring the office of our boards and auxiliaries together in one place. This will allow them to work more effectively together," Jemison said. Various components of the con-

vention are located in different parts of the country although the official headquarters are in Jemison's hometown of Baton Rouge, La.

The 90,000 square-foot building will house office space, conference rooms, classrooms, residential space and a 500-seat chapel which also will be used by ABTS. Jemison said the facility is expected to be completed sometime in 1986.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the SBC Education Commission and head of the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, welcomed Jemison and National Baptists to Nashville following the groundbreaking at a dedication service for ABTS's new Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame will honor outstanding alumni of ABTS.

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## Church divides \$50,000 gift to missions eight ways

By Janis Whipple

CRESTWOOD, Ky. (BP) — A \$50,000 anonymous donation in mid-December has allowed a Kentucky church to extend its missions reach and expand its mission giving.

The 550-member Ballardville Baptist Church in Crestwood, Ky., in turn voted to send \$25,000 to Foreign Mission Board's world hunger relief fund and \$5,000 to Oneida Baptist Institute, a boarding school, grades 6-12, for underprivileged children and children with special disciplinary and learning difficulties (located in Oneida, Ky., the school is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention).

Another \$5,000 will help cover expenses and materials for the church's mission project in Honduras, Feb. 16-Mar. 3. Seven of the last eight years the church has sent laypersons to work with Leslie Keys, missionary to Honduras, especially in mission construction projects. This year six church members will build a home for a national pastor.

The Detroit Rescue Mission, where a former church member is director, received \$5,000.

Paul Justice, former pastor of the church, got \$2,500 to help his work as a home missionary in Washington state, pastoring pioneer Southern Baptist churches.

Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, Louisville, which provides Christian social ministries in the inner-city through such programs as emergency financial aid, food, clothing, nutrition and crisis counseling, also got \$2,500 as did Ken and Beth Perkins, missionaries to Malawi with whom the church corresponds; and the first \$2,500 went to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, bringing the church's total gifts to the offering to \$4,390.

The experience has been "tremendous for the church," related Wayne Dozier, pastor of the church since December 1977. "The people have been astonished, surprised, and pleased."

"I think (the experience) will make a difference in our attitude toward future giving," concluded Dozier.

Janis Whipple is a staff writer for the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Reagan offers olive branch at prayer breakfast

WASHINGTON (BP)—Declaring that "the clerk and the king and the communist were made in (God's) image," President Reagan told an annual national prayer breakfast "man finds liberation only when he binds himself to God and commits himself to his fellow man."

Speaking to a capacity crowd of 3,200 invited guests in a ballroom of the hotel where four years ago he was shot by would-be assassin John W. Hinckley Jr., the President said: "There are such diversities in the world, such terrible and passionate division between men, but prayer and fellowship among the great universe of God's believers are the beginning of understanding and reconciliation. They remind us of the great, over-

arching things that really unite us."

Reagan, in his nine-minute talk, praised the prayer breakfast movement, which has now gone beyond the U.S. to other nations. "In some of the most troubled parts of the world," the president noted, "political figures who are old enemies are meeting with each other in a spirit of peace and brotherhood." He said he wished he could be more specific, "but it's working precisely because it is private."

He recalled the movement began in 1942 when a small group of senators and members of the House began to meet informally to share personal problems and pray together. Today prayer breakfasts are held weekly on Capitol Hill, one in the Senate, another in the House.

## Brotherhood materials will focus on practical missions

By Jack Childs

TALLEDEGA, Ala. (BP) — During a week of intense planning at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, 32 state Brotherhood leaders from 18 Baptist state conventions and 19 Brotherhood Commission staff members developed a dozen new Brotherhood product proposals, outlined an enlargement campaign, made plans for a national Royal Ambassador Congress, discussed ways to improve Disaster Relief projects, and reviewed Royal Ambassador Campcraft.

The meeting dealt primarily with curriculum, leadership publications, advancement and growth materials, and promotional items designed to support the recommendations of a Brotherhood long-range study committee approved last October.

Known as the Missions Impact 2000 Committee, the long-range study panel of eight state Brotherhood leaders and eight Brotherhood Commission staff members recommended improved methods for helping churches involve men and boys in missions through the year 2000.

Scheduled for implementation for 1987-88, new and updated materials

will support a revised Brotherhood children's and youth program which will include Royal Ambassadors for boys in grades 1-9 and High School Baptist Young Men for those in grades 10-12.

Support materials also were developed for new programs for Baptist Young Men, Collegiate Baptist Young Men, and Senior Baptist Men scheduled for 1987-88 introduction. Improved approaches also will be presented at that time for Baptist Men.

All updated Brotherhood materials will focus on a study/action approach to missions learning with emphasis on practical missions involvement for both men and boys.

The Brotherhood enlargement campaign will be launched early in 1987, coordinated with the introduction of new materials supporting the program changes.

"Dare to Care" was approved as the theme for the national Royal Ambassador Congress for Pioneer Royal Ambassadors scheduled August 4-7, 1986, in Memphis, Tenn.

Childs writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

## Churchmen to sing at two March meetings

The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen will be singing for two major events during March.

First, they will sing for the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, on March 7. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Second, they will sing for the Evangelism Conference at First Church, Greenville, on March 11 at the afternoon session.

The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen are sponsored by the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and directed by Milford Valentine, head of the music department at Jones Junior College. The group is made up of ministers of music and church music faculty from colleges and universities in Mississippi. Lee Gordon is president.

## Liberty reception will honor retiring pastor

Liberty Church, Liberty, will honor Charles Holifield with a reception Sunday afternoon, March 3, from 2 until 4. Holifield is retiring from the pastorate there.

Holifield was ordained by Myrick Church in 1949 and served as pastor of Fellowship Church, (Jones); Mountain Creek (Rankin); Myrick (Jones); Rawls Springs (Lebanon); Calvary (Wayne); First Baptist Church, (Scott); Morgantown (Adams); and Liberty (Mississippi Association).

He is presently serving on Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Committee on New Work Expansion of the convention.

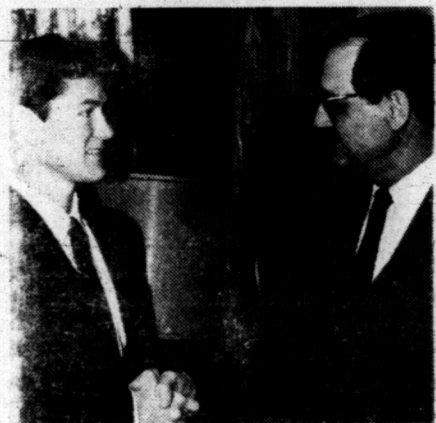
Holifield has served Liberty Church from Nov. 5, 1974, to Feb. 28, 1985, and becomes the first active pastor to retire there. He and Mrs. Holifield have purchased a home and will reside in Liberty.

Coach: "I'm sorry, Stan, but the team and I will have to let you go. You're failing incredibly."

Stan: "But, coach, I'm not even taking incredibly."

A silly idea usually can find a home in a mind that hasn't been kept occupied.

## Names in the News



William Carey College vice president Hugh Dickens, right, gives a farewell handshake to Randy Rawls, who left last week for a year of study in New Zealand as a Rotary Fellow. Rawls, who graduated last August from Carey with bachelor's degrees in biblical studies and psychology, is one of three Rotary Fellows selected from Rotary International's District 634, which covers Mississippi and Louisiana. Rawls, a member of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, plans to become a medical missionary and will enter medical school when he returns from New Zealand.

Franklin Denham of Meridian joined 35 other presidents of Southwestern Seminary's state alumni groups for a workshop Feb. 7-8 in Fort Worth, Tex. Denham visited the campus to learn how to maintain alumni contact and plan for the state's fall alumni gathering. The presidents voted to double financial support of the seminary from graduates and former students. A goal of \$5 million from at least 16 percent of Southwestern's former students was set for Upward 90, Southwestern's development plan for 1985 through 1990.

O. Wyndell Jones, native son of Mississippi, was listed in Who's Who in Religion in America for 1984. Jones grew up in Philadelphia and held student pastorates in Mississippi during college and seminary days at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

He is the son of J. O. Jones of Union. He and his wife, Audie, who is also a native of Mississippi, reside in Montgomery, Ala., where he is a member of the Executive Board staff of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Their younger daughter, Karen, is listed among the Outstanding Young Women in America for 1984. She is a resident of Greenwich, Conn., and employed by Continental Can Corporation.

Bruce Fields, minister of activities at First Church, Biloxi, has been selected by the Jaycees as the Outstanding Young Religious Leader in the City of Biloxi.

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Kenneth Weathersby of Jackson has been named a recipient of the Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Scholarship at Southern Seminary. A religion/English major at Mississippi College, Weathersby plans to enter Southern Seminary this fall. The son of Joel and Evelyn Weathersby, he lists Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson as his home church.

If you wish to reach the highest, begin at the lowest. — Syrus

There is no cosmetic for beauty like happiness. — Lady Blessington

## Revival Dates

North McComb Church, McComb: March 3-6; services Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; each night, Sunday through Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Charles Pratt, Liberty Church, Metairie, La., guest speaker; Roger Banes, minister of music at First Church, Magnolia, to will lead the music; Robert Fullerton, pastor.

First Church, Clinton: March 3-6; Joe McKeever, pastor, First Church, Columbus, evangelist; Sidney Buckley of Easley, S.C. Mississippi native who is a music evangelist and who also is minister of music at Washington Avenue Church, Greenville, S.C., guest musician; services on Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.;

Mon.-Wed. at 6:50 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bill Baker, pastor.



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## Seminary student merges mechanics and ministry

By Michael Duduit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — While other seminarians find their ministry outlets in pulpits and classrooms, Chuck Edwards has found his under the hood of an automobile.

Combining a commitment to evangelism with a knack for mechanics, Edwards, a third-year student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has begun conducting "Auto Clinics" in area churches.

"People bring in their cars and I diagnose them and instruct volunteer laymen and owners in making repairs. It builds friendships and breaks down barriers for sharing Christ," Edwards explains. "It shows

people in the community this church wants to help."

The idea started when Edwards helped a neighborhood boy repair his car, "and I saw how I reached him through auto mechanics. He learned I was willing to get my hands dirty with him," Edwards recalls.

Since age nine, Edwards has been tinkering with cars. As a teenager he dropped out of high school to work as a mechanic. Church was the last thing on his mind, but two incidents — each involving cars — brought him to a new relationship with Christ.

"I loved to hot rod and zigzag through heavy traffic," Edwards recalls. "I picked up a hitchhiker one

day and took him for the ride of his life. He never flinched. When I let him out, he asked me, 'Brother, are you saved?' Electricity ran through me. I told him yes, but the answer was no. It haunted me. I couldn't fool him or God."

Later Edwards encountered a Methodist minister whose car was being repaired at a shop where he worked. Because of the delay by the shop owner in placing an order, the car was held up for six weeks. When the owner finally confessed to the minister, he simply said, "An honest confession is good for the soul." "He should have been angry. What peace, I thought. That stayed with me," Edwards

explained.

When his own car broke down, Edwards decided his father might let him borrow his car if he attended a local Baptist church as his sister had been urging. It was at the service Edwards committed his life to Christ.

Sensing a call to preach, Edwards obtained his GED certificate, then graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C., and Furman University in Greenville S.C., before entering Southern seminary.

His "Auto Clinic" ministry is seeing results. It has proven to be very effective "as an outreach and evangelistic tool for the local church," according

to Dallas Vincent, pastor of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, where Edwards conducted a clinic a year ago.

Edwards hopes the clinic idea will spread. "If I do a clinic, I can only touch a few. But if I share the concept with others, a lot more can be reached. A church can hire a good mechanic for a day," he explained.

The seminarian hopes to continue his clinics, as well as do prison ministry, when he finishes at Southern in May because "I want to try innovative ways to reach people who are hostile to God."

Duduit writes for Southern Seminary.

## Carl McIntire school loses licensing battle with state

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — A small New Jersey school founded by right-wing radio preacher Carl McIntire lost its final bid to become a degree-granting institution when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand lower rulings upholding state officials' right to license all colleges and universities under their jurisdiction.

Shelton College, of Camp May, N.J., failed to convince the high court the New Jersey State Board of Higher Education violated its free exercise of religion by first reviewing, then canceling the school's ability to grant B. A. degrees. The revocation came after the state agency determined the college was not meeting minimum educational standards.

The 1965 actions were followed by a legal challenge but the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 1967 that the higher education panel properly exercised its authority in the Shelton College dispute.

Following that initial legal skirmish, the college relocated to Cape Canaveral, Fla., where it continued to grant degrees. But in 1979, school officials decided to move the college back to New Jersey and a new round of legal challenges began.

Over the past five years, the case has been the subject of seven separate legal proceedings, in each of which the school has lost its basic contention that the state agency is forbidden by the First Amendment religion clauses to regulate it.

Shelton College attorney, church-

state specialist William Bentley Ball, of Harrisburg, Pa., argued in a written appeal to the Supreme Court that because the school is pervasively religious state officials have no jurisdiction over its affairs. He asked the justices to recognize the "irrationality" of what he called the "forced destruction of this institution."

Ball pointed out the new round of court proceedings began in 1979 when the state tried to shut down the school altogether. While state courts agreed the state must allow the school to call itself a "college," advertise itself as such, recruit students, teach its entire curriculum, and award credits for individual courses, the higher education panel could forbid it to grant baccalaureate degrees.

In the state's written brief asking the high court not to review the lower decisions, New Jersey Attorney General Irwin I. Kimmelman argued "the issuance of a bachelor's degree is not a religious function or practice" and the state's laws governing colleges have no "coercive impact" on an institution's practice of religion.

He also argued "carving out a religious exception to the State's licensure requirements would effectively destroy" the state legislature's intent to regulate all institutions of higher education in New Jersey.

At least 38 states have laws requiring some form of licensure of degree-granting colleges and universities.

Hastey writes for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.

## Popps Ferry is constituted; moves into new building

Popps Ferry Church, Biloxi, has recently made important steps, reports Terry Cutrer, pastor. In October the church body was constituted, and in December the church moved into a new facility housing an auditorium, as well as Sunday School space.

This was a joint effort in that the Mississippi Baptist Convention donated the land; the Gulf Coast Association backed the building loan; and First Church, Gulfport sponsored the church while it was a mission.

There have been five baptisms since the church moved into the new facility, as well as a marked increase in attendance.



## Pastor gets new station wagon; church gets new name

A station wagon was presented to James Jeffreys for Pastor Appreciation Day on Feb. 10, at Second Church, Tupelo. At the close of the morning service, Billy Langley presented the keys to a Chevrolet-Caprice Station Wagon on behalf of the church. Jeffreys has been pastor of Second Baptist for eight months. There have been 44 added to the fellowship. The church has grown in all areas. On Sunday night, Feb. 24, the name was changed from Second Baptist to Wildwood Baptist, reports Talmadge Smith, music director.

## Book Reviews

**WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD**, by Tim Floyd; Broadman Press, 1984; 151 pages; paperback, \$5.95.

Tim Floyd believes that most Christians do not think "christianly" about the physical or spiritual worlds of reality. Even if the average Christian has managed to escape the pagan lifestyle of his non-Christian counterparts, nevertheless he usually has accepted uncritically the viewpoint and thought structures of the world around him. Thus Christians today are "culturally captive" and prone to faddism and shallowness.

"The underlying illness of the modern church is false perception. In other words . . . most Christians seem to be sleepwalking: walking amid reality but responding to an illusion" (pages 12-13).

Floyd is not merely an iconoclast, however. Wherever he challenges a falsehood or misconception he offers a Christian option in its place. In 10 stimulating chapters he discusses such relevant subjects as what it means to walk by faith, how a Christian should respond to suffering, the

Christian doctrine of knowledge, rights versus responsibility, Christian response to hedonism, spiritual warfare, and the Christian's victory over death. — Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

**ILLUSTRATING PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS**, by James E. Hightower, Jr., Compiler; Broadman Press, 1984; 121 pages; paperback, \$4.95.

Many preachers spend more time foraging for illustrations than they do in the actual preparation of a message. Oftentimes it is one clear illustration which makes a message memorable to the listeners. The organization of this book is simple and effective. The illustrations are listed in chronological order from Romans 1:1 to Romans 16:27.

For instance the first illustration is of Romans 1:8-12 and is entitled "Support." The idea is that relationships within a church aid members' development. Every major section though not every verse is illustrated. Each illustration is listed by subject as well as by verse. A subject index is

included which will allow the pastor to use the book even when not preaching from Romans.

Many of the illustrations are personal experiences or anecdotes of the various authors. Many of them can be used just as they are. Others will serve primarily as a stimulus to assist the speaker in remembering incidents in his own life and experience which will illustrate the passage he is seeking to interpret. — Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

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# capsules

## For Midwestern . . .

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A Florida Baptist church has established a \$12,000 scholarship fund honoring an original trustee of Midwestern Seminary here.

Central Church, Miami, has financed the Conrad R. Willard Scholarship Fund, recognizing the retirement of Conrad R. Willard, the church's pastor from 1962 through last December, and a charter Midwestern trustee.

Earnings from the fund will finance an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a ministerial student at Midwestern. Contributors to the scholarship plan to increase the fund to \$25,000 later.

## Ad for God's love

COPPELL, Tex. (EP) — William J. Murray, son of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, ran an advertisement Christmas day in the *Austin American Statesman*, the newspaper serving the town where the American Atheists have their national headquarters.

The advertisement, titled "A message to all atheists" said "My message to each of you this Christmas is that God is alive and well, and he loves you and wants you to have eternal life. I've walked in your shoes, and I can tell you that you are on a dead end road, leading to sadness, emptiness, and an unfulfilled life. I found Jesus Christ to be very much alive today and willing to forgive my sins . . . Contact me and I will reach out to you in the same love Christ has reached out to me."

The advertisement also announced Murray's plans to conduct special services during the 15th Annual American Atheists Convention, scheduled for Austin during Easter of 1985.

## Live-in lovers' law

BERKELEY, Calif. (EP) — The Berkeley City Council has passed a "live-in lovers" law extending health and welfare benefits to unmarried domestic partners of city employees. The council passed the law on an 8-0 vote, becoming the first city in the nation to approve a "domestic partnership ordinance." Unmarried partners of city employees, whether homosexual or heterosexual, will now qualify for benefits previously reserved for spouses of city workers. At first only dental care and sick-leave benefits will be extended to unmarried partners.

## 175 converts

DHAKA, Bangladesh — "Last year we had a total of 175 converts coming from other religions such as Hindu and Moslem," writes Dennis Dilip Datta, general secretary of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship.

Datta reports that the Fellowship now has 2,267 members in 49 churches. In addition there are 138

preaching stations where worship services are held regularly.

The Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship claims a total Baptist community of almost 5,000, including children and regular visitors.

Bangladesh has three Baptist bodies belonging to the 131 member conventions/unions that make up the Baptist World Alliance. The other two unions are the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (190 churches with 9,720 members) and the Garo Baptist Union (116 churches with 9,000 members).

## Abortion foes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — President Reagan told more than 71,000 anti-abortion protesters that "the momentum is with us" and urged abortion foes to "rededicate ourselves to ending the terrible national tragedy of abortion." The pro-lifers gathered in the nation's capital to mark the 12th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Reagan said "I am convinced that . . . understanding begins with a recognition of the reality of life before birth and a recognition of the reality of death by abortion." Reagan also condemned violence at abortion clinics, urging "a complete rejection of violence as a means of settling this issue."

## Food aid to Africa

WASHINGTON (BP) — Private voluntary organizations in America have channeled about \$60 million in food aid to Africa within the last three months. But the magnitude of the African famine is so great that without additional food aid an estimated 150 million people will face hunger and starvation, according to testimony given before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Legislation co-sponsored by 113 U.S. representatives from both parties seeks quick delivery of about 1.4 million metric tons of food to the 27 nations most adversely affected by Africa's drought. The prolonged drought, resulting in severe food shortages compounded by problems with food distribution, already has claimed about 300,000 lives.

## W. German Baptists

KAISERSLAUTERN, West Germany — Congregations connected with the German Baptist Union's Home Mission in West Germany have increased from 19 to 71 during the past five years, according to Herbert Szepean, one of the Home Mission secretaries.

Pioneer missionaries have increased from five to 27 during the same period.

Southern Baptists are now supplementing the German Baptists' church planting efforts with two missionary couples. Allan and Jana Thompson from Texas have been working in Trier since December 1982 and Wayne and Pam Jenkins from Georgia, in language study in Luneburg, will be stationed in Regensburg.

# Past, present, and future celebrated at WMU meeting

By Carol Sisson Garrett

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — "Nothing that splits us is as important as that which binds us together in our task of missions," national Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford told WMU executive board members and state and national WMU staffs recently.

Weatherford's remarks reflected a tone of a reaffirmation and celebration of purpose which marked the week of WMU executive board-related activities held at the new national headquarters building in Birmingham, Ala.

"In our past and our present, our very existence is justified by our never changing purpose of missions," Weatherford said.

About 600 special guests came to the new Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters building for official dedication ceremonies, held during the executive board meeting.

Lloyd Elder, BSSB president, presented WMU eight original letters and one Christmas card from Annie Armstrong to her historic BSSB counterpart, J. M. Frost.

"This correspondence reveals a woman who was sometimes plainspoken, but who also was guided by a singleminded commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ and Southern Baptists," Elder said. Elder said the gift was given to honor present WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford.

The 1986-87 WMU plan of work for churches and associations was reviewed, evaluated, and approved by the executive board and state WMU staffs. The general theme for the year's activities and curriculum will be "Gifted to serve — Called to Act."

The WMU executive board voted to expand publications and services to previously unreached consumer groups. These new publications and services could include such items as bookmarks, flags of states, international dolls, a WMU cookbook and missions trivia questions kit.

Every new product and service will be closely tied to WMU's purpose of missions education. Production of some new items will begin immediately.

## Garaywa reservations made through the mail

Garaywa summer camp information and registration forms will be mailed to all Woman's Missionary Union directors within a week, according to the state WMU Department. No registration will be accepted before April 1, and all must be made through the mail — no telephone reservations accepted.

Cost for full week: \$55 per camper; \$30 for mini-week. The entire camper fee is due with the registration form. Check or money order should be made payable to WMU Department.

Refund Policy:  
14 days or more before camper week — \$55 (\$30 for mini-week)  
13 days to eight days before camper week — \$45 (\$25 for mini-week)

Associate Executive Director Catherine Allen explained a computer problem which had caused several months of WMU magazine subscriptions to be late or lost. Allen urged WMU leaders to direct churches with subscription problems to write WMU.

Marti Solomon, WMU Acteens consultant, announced the 1985 National Acteens Advisory Panel. The panelists are Lisa Baugh, Mt. Hermon, La.; Mae Choa, Newhall, Calif.; Carol Coon, Carnegie, Okla.; Hannah Holtzclaw, Pineville, Ky.; Bonnie Hughes, Clinotn, Tenn., and Denise Jacobson, Houston, Tex.

The panelists will serve as pages at the WMU annual meeting June 9-10 in

Dallas, and at the Southern Baptist Convention which immediately follows.

The WMU Centennial Committee announced plans for the 1988 celebration of 100 years of Woman's Missionary Union organization.

Richmond was named as the site of anniversary celebrations. WMU was founded at Richmond's Broad Street Methodist Church on May 14, 1888.

The executive board also voted to establish a Second Century Fund to help provide good, well trained WMU leadership where needed.

Garrett writes for Woman's Missionary Union.

## Singing Churchmen retreat will feature Frank Stovall as guest

The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen will hold their annual retreat March 8 and 9 at Paul B. Johnson State Park, south of Hattiesburg. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. on the 8th, with supper at 6. The purpose of the retreat is for spiritual and musical enrichment and fellowship.

"Singing Churchmen" is made up of ministers of music and church musicians in colleges and universities of the state.

Frank Stovall, head of the music department at Mississippi College, and formerly head of the voice department at Southwestern Seminary, will be special guest for the retreat.

Reservations for the retreat should be made with Lee Gordon of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, by March 4. "If you are not already a member of the Singing Churchmen, this would be a great opportunity to become involved in this organization," states Gordon.

The retreat will conclude with lunch on the 9th.

## BSSB buys new computer system

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has announced plans for a computerized text management system for editorial and art design production of its 150 periodicals.

The system, to be installed in phases over an estimated three-year period, has been purchased from Atex, Inc., a Kodak company.

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



FROM  
**Baptist Children's Village**

P. O. Box 11308

Jackson, MS 39213

## Gifts of Honor and Memory December 26 — January 25

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

(Continued from Feb. 7)

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Judge Francis Zachary  
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### Gifts Of Honor

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Forty-eight young people and staff members from The Baptist Children's Village were treated to a trip to Mobile Feb. 16 and 17 by Mr. Bill Bryan of Bryan Tours, Inc. in cooperation with American Airlines. For most this was a trip of a lifetime. Mr. Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of The Village, said "this is just another example of contributions made to dependent children by unsolicited benefactors."



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# Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *Jesus' preparation . . .*
- Life and Work: *Grateful response*
- Uniform: *Relationships in the new life*

## Relationships in the new life

By W. Levon Moore  
John 13:1-8, 12-17, 34-35

This week's lesson begins a three-session unit on the topic, "Words of New Life," based on John 13-17. The first of these three lessons deals with relationships in the new life which Jesus provides.

When one becomes a follower of Jesus, a new relationship is established. The new birth experience brings one into the family of God. God is his father and Jesus is his elder brother. All other believers become his brothers and sisters in Christ, and constitute the body of Christ.

The relationship of the believer to Christ is closely akin to that which existed between Jesus and his disciples. The passage for this lesson focuses upon these phases of that relationship.

I. A relationship of humility (13:1-17)  
The night before Jesus' crucifixion was one of the most memorable times in the life of the disciples. They had gone with Jesus to the Upper Room for the observance of the Passover Feast. Earlier in the evening the disciples argued among themselves as to who would be greatest in the kingdom of God. Their selfish rivalry was so paramount that they neglected the common courtesy of washing each other's feet.

Following the supper, Jesus arose from the table, laid aside his garments, took a towel, and girded himself. He poured water into a basin and performed the menial task of

washing the feet of his disciples. The Lord of Life laid aside his superior role for a time and adopted the role of a servant. This act was symbolic of the self-emptying which our Lord demonstrated when he laid aside his glory and came to this earth as a human being. The incarnation is the world's greatest example of humility (Phil. 2:5-11).

When he had washed their feet, he placed his garment back in position, sat down again and asked them the question, "Know ye what I have done to you?" He explained and reinforced this dramatic object lesson by saying, "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am." Then he declared, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (v. 15). He reminded them that the servant is not greater than his Lord.

This entire experience of washing the disciples' feet was to reinforce the fact that in the newly established relationship their lives should be characterized by their humility.

II. A relationship of loyalty (13:18-30)

Even in the group of Jesus' chosen disciples, there was a traitor. This greatly troubled the heart and soul of the Master. The disciples were shocked when Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I

say unto you, that one of you shall betray me" (v. 21). When the disciples inquired as to the identity of the betrayer, Jesus answered, "He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. When he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon" (v. 26). One of the most tragic moments of Jesus' earthly ministry was when Judas received the sop and went out into the night.

Judas was the first in a long line of persons who would become disloyal to Jesus. Even today there are millions who bear his name and profess to be his followers. However, in reality they deny him by their actions and by their words. The new life which Jesus gives should be characterized by a relationship of genuine loyalty to the Saviour and to his cause.

III. A relationship of love (13:31-35)

Following the betrayal of our Lord by Judas, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him" (13:32).

These words meant that through the acts of crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus would be revealed in his true nature as the divine Son of God and the only Saviour of mankind from his sins.

Are our relationships in the family of God characterized by humility, loyalty, and love?

Moore is director of missions, Atlanta Association.

## Jesus' preparation of his disciples

By Bill R. Baker  
Luke 9:1-50

Jesus has now come to the place in his relationship to the disciples, that he must prepare them for all that lies ahead. This preparation calls for instruction regarding a new economy, a new confession, a new commitment, and a new attitude.

A new economy (vs. 10-17). As citizens of a new kingdom the disciples must now learn to operate in a new economy. There were 5,000 hungry folks present and the question presented by Jesus was, "How can they be fed?" The disciples considered their own resources and reached the obvious conclusion, "We can't afford it." These followers of Jesus must learn never to base their expectations upon their own resources, but upon the resources of God. The meeting of need does not always depend upon the supply in the hand or head of God's people. Success in God's work depends upon his blessings; consequently, he blessed, brake, gave, and all were filled (vs. 16-17).

A new confession (vs. 18-22). Jesus called for a confession when he said, "Whom say ye that I am?" An acceptable confession came forth immediately—"The Christ of God." There is some confusion as to why Jesus requested that they tell no one what had just been confessed (v. 21). The solution should be obvious; they

had no real story to tell until after the cross and the resurrection (v. 22). The Christian has a story to tell to the nations and it is more than the feeding of 5,000; it is that Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.

A new commitment (vs. 23-27). Jesus does not coerce; he offers an option by saying, "If any man come after me." From those who choose to exercise this option Jesus requires serious commitment. He has placed new life within the disciples. If one seeks to save the old life he loses the expression of the new. As one surrenders or loses the old life, the new is expressed or saved.

A new attitude (vs. 37-50). Having just learned on the Mount of Transfiguration that Jesus is supreme and not to be equated with any other including the greatest of men, illustrated by Moses and Elijah (v. 33), it is surprising they would turn to the theme regarding who is greatest among themselves. In the Kingdom of God the disciples must be prepared for a new attitude regarding personal ambition (vs. 46-48). They should desire to be least rather than greatest.

Another change in attitude for which the disciples must be prepared had to do with their exclusive disposition (vs. 49-50). They had observed one ministering in the name of Jesus; however, because he was not a part of their group they forbade him. The church needs to realize today that many groups serve in the name of Jesus and no one person or group has exclusive privileges in Kingdom service. When one becomes exclusive, he makes the same mistake as the disciples who were convinced that only those who followed with them could be blessed. God has never franchised himself to any exclusive group. He is for all who claim his name!

Baker is pastor, First, Clinton.

## Grateful response

By James F. Yates  
John 12:1-8

Time was coming very near the end for Jesus. The very fact that he had come to Jerusalem for the Passover was an act of great courage, because the authorities had made him in effect an outlaw. The crowds that came to the Passover were so large that they could not all find a place to stay in the city of Jerusalem itself, and Bethany was one of the places which the law laid down as a place for the overflow of the pilgrims to stay.

On Tuesday night Jesus was the guest of honor at a dinner at Bethany. If we had only John's account, we might assume that it was held in the home of Martha. However, he parallels Matthew and Mark who tell us that the host was "Simon the leper." Nothing more is known about him; he may have been healed of his leprosy through the ministry of Jesus. This is the only person, other than Jesus, that they name. By contrast, while omitting the name of the host, John gives the names of the other principal characters involved in the event: Martha, Lazarus, Mary, and Judas. It may have been an occasion in which four devoted friends expressed their gratitude for Jesus' ministry of mercy. Lazarus was a noted guest, reclining at the table with Jesus (v. 2). Martha helped to serve, which was her true character. Mary sought a way to express the gratitude and devotion of

her heart to Jesus. It was a brave thing for these friends to do. The religious authorities had ordered that anyone who knew where Jesus was should report it in order that they might seize him and kill him (11:57).

Mary interrupts the meal by anointing the feet of Jesus. For ointment she used "spikenard," or "nard." Literally, it was oil of nard, fragrant oil which comes from an East Indian plant. It is described as "very costly," or precious. Nard was considered to be a gift fit for a king. Evidently it was a precious possession of Mary, which means that her act was one of great love. Beyond the lavishness of her gift, she ignored social custom by loosing her hair publicly and using it to wipe his feet. In Mark 14:3 an unnamed woman poured this same pure nard on Jesus' head, which was the customary way to anoint a king, but did not use her hair. Again in Luke 7:38 a sinful woman used her hair to wipe away tears that had fallen on Jesus' feet so that she could anoint them with ointment. But it was unthinkable for a Jewish woman of Mary's reputation to anoint someone by applying pure nard to the humblest part of his body, his unshod feet, and then wipe off the perfume with the most "glorious" part of her body, her unbound hair (I Cor. 11:15).

It was at this point that Judas voiced

his complaint: "Why was this ointment not sold for 300 denarii, and given to the poor people?" (v. 5). The denarius was a silver piece equivalent to a day's wage, so this was equal to a year's earnings for a working man. John gives the reason for Judas' complaint. He was the treasurer of the group; he carried the money box for the group's supplies; he was a thief who stole from the group funds to supply his personal needs (v. 6). John also indicated, parenthetically, that Judas had no concern for the poor (v. 6a).

Jesus rebuked Judas. He gave those who were present another way of looking at the situation. First, he said, "Let her alone." The remainder of verse 7 is given to various renderings. Perhaps the translation offered by Ray Summers is more nearly correct: "Leave her alone in order that she may keep it for the preparation for my burial." This sounds as if she had been interrupted in her anointing him, and Jesus was suggesting that she neither sell it nor anoint him now, but that she keep it to anoint his body at his death. However, if the events are the same, both Mark and Matthew have a very graphic picture of her breaking the fragile container and "pouring" its contents over Jesus' head. That suggests that she had none left to keep for any kind of future use. In the Mark and Matthew accounts, Jesus stated

that Mary had done this as a pre-anointing of his body, looking to his burial at the end of the week.

Jesus' second statement to the apostles was a reminder that they were never without an opportunity to aid the poor, "the poor you always have with you," a quotation from Deuteronomy 15:11. There was still opportunity for them to fulfill the Passover custom of giving to the poor. Jesus was not insensitive to the poor and needy; but in contrast to the always-present opportunity to do something for the poor, Jesus reminded them "but you do not always have me (v. 8)." Soon he would be with them no more. Let anyone who had anything he wished to do for Jesus act with haste. On the night of his betrayal he would say almost the same thing to Judas (13:27). In both parts of his response, Jesus put great stress on his death. Mary had pre-anointed his body for burial (v. 7); he would not be with them much longer (v. 8). Still they would not believe that he was to die. They would resist that part of his teaching to the very end.

Yates is pastor, First, Yazoo City.

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